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HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

FOURTH SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-EIGHTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2008–2009

COMPRISING PERIOD
9 March 2009—20 March 2009

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Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 9 March 2009

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Television Licence Fee Increases

The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Andy Burnham): On 18 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 933, my right hon. Friend the Member for Dulwich and West Norwood (Tessa Jowell), announced the planned annual increases in the TV licence fee under the BBC's six-year funding settlement, which began in April 2007. In line with that settlement, from 1 April 2009, the fee for a colour television licence will be £142.50 and the fee for a black and white licence will be £48.00. I have today laid before the House the regulations necessary to bring these new fees into force.

The regulations also extend the facility for cash payment schemes to the Isle of Man, Jersey and Guernsey, to bring the availability of these facilities into line with the UK; and extend the facility for quarterly direct debit payments to Jersey and Guernsey, to bring the availability of these facilities into line with the UK and Isle of Man.

DEFENCE

Nimrod

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): The board of inquiry into the tragic loss of 14 personnel as a result of the Nimrod XV230 crash on 2 September 2006 made a number of recommendations to improve the safety of the fleet. Following on from this work the Nimrod fleet is currently undergoing modifications to replace a number of fuel seals and the engine bay hot air ducts. These programmes were due to complete by 31 March 2009 but, unfortunately, problems with the provision of replacement fuel seals mean that both programmes will be delayed beyond that date.

Our technical experts have advised that in order that the risks involved in operating the aircraft remain tolerable and as low as reasonably practicable, no Nimrods should fly after 31 March 2009, unless their hot air ducts have been replaced. Ministers and the Chief of the Air Staff accept this advice. Delays to the replacement of fuel seals will, however, have no impact on flying since our experts assess that the risk is tolerable.

For this reason, our priority now is to ensure that we modify the remaining aircraft as quickly as possible so we are temporarily withdrawing Nimrod aircraft from overseas operations until early summer. This will allow us to free up the maximum number of aircraft for the modification programme while also allowing Nimrod to continue with its critical homeland security tasks. During this period, we will use other UK and coalition assets to maintain an effective surveillance capability overseas.

We are also allocating additional service engineering personnel from RAF Kinloss and RAF Waddington to the modification programme. The reallocation of these personnel will cause a temporary reduction in routine UK-based Nimrod flying but will not affect our ability to protect UK interests at home.

We have reassessed the situation in the light of these developments and concluded that the Nimrod fleet remains airworthy and safe to fly, subject to the measures outlined above.

Separately, QinetiQ has provided the second report on the Nimrod ageing aircraft systems audit. It does not identify any significant airworthiness issues and the findings of the report do not alter previous assessments that the Nimrod aircraft remains safe to fly. Copies of the report will be placed in the Library of the House and on the MOD website. A copy is also being passed to Mr Charles Haddon-Cave QC for inclusion in his review of Nimrod safety.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Ending Violence Against Women and Girls

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Jacqui Smith): I am today publishing a consultation document, "Together we can end violence against women and girls", which seeks views on how to prevent and combat violence against women and girls. Copies of the consultations will be available from the Vote Office and placed in the House Library.

Violence against women and girls is unacceptable, whatever the context, whatever the circumstances. This consultation is intended to raise awareness, discussion and debate on how together we can end violence against women, and overcome its debilitating impact on individuals, families and communities. Over the last 10 years this Government have worked alongside voluntary organisations to deliver a package of measures to protect women from violence and to support those who have suffered violence. Together we have made a real difference.

The number of incidents of domestic violence has more than halved since1997.

The rate of conviction in domestic violence cases has significantly increased. Now, the vast majority (72 per cent.) of perpetrators who have been charged and brought to court result in a conviction.

The number of women killed by their partners or ex-partners in 2007-08 (72) is the lowest recorded figure for more than a decade.

The conviction rate for rape cases when a case gets to court are at their highest for 10 years.

The Government have successfully intervened in over 400 cases of forced marriage last year alone.

We have taken a stand on human trafficking and rescued over 150 people through Operation Pentameter 2 led by the police.

This is the first time we have consulted on how to combat violence specifically against women and girls. And it is the first time we have sought to take a cross-cutting approach to the offences that disproportionately affect women.

My vision is that we can create a society in which women and girls feel safe and confident in their homes and in our communities, so that they can live freely, contribute to society, and prosper in their daily lives.

I am proposing that we need to take more action to prevent violence against women; help women feel safer when they are out, especially at night; further improve the help women get when it is needed; and act to catch and convict perpetrators.

I want this debate to engage with all sectors of society, with men and women, boys and girls. We need to identify what we can do collectively to overcome and end violence against women. As part of this consultation, we will be holding a series of regional events in every part of England over the next three months to enable everyone to tell us what they think. Discussion and debate are essential if we are to raise awareness of the scale of the problem, and to improve the confidence of women and girls.

Violence against women is an enduring social issue affecting women and their children. We have done much to address the problem already, but we can all do more. We can end violence against women and to do that we must harness all our energies across Government and within our communities.

PRIME MINISTER

National Security Forum

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): On 19 March 2008, I informed the House about the United Kingdom's first National Security Strategy. In that statement I announced my intention to form a National Security Forum. I can now inform the House about the Forum, its objectives and its membership.

The purpose of the Forum is to harness a wide range of expertise and experience from outside Government to provide independent advice on a wide variety of national security issues to the Government and the Committee on National Security, International Relations and Development (NSID). It will have an important role in contributing to the annual updates of the National Security Strategy, the first of which shall be published before the summer recess.

So that the Forum can begin work immediately, the Government are initially establishing an interim National Security Forum. This interim advisory body will have a life of no more than 24 months from its first meeting and will be supported by staff drawn from the National Security Secretariat in the Cabinet Office. The permanent Forum will be recruited by open competition in 2010.

The first meeting of the Forum, to be held in Downing Street today, will be chaired by Lord West of Spithead. Serving alongside Lord West I have appointed as members of the Forum:

Professor Michael Clarke CBE
Ex Deputy Assistant Commissioner Peter Clarke CBE
Sir Ronnie Flanagan GBE
Professor Julia King CBE
Sir David Manning KCMG
Sir David Pepper KCMG
Sir Michael Rake
Professor Ziauddin Sardar
Professor Amartya Sen
General Sir Rupert Smith KCB, DSO, OBE, QGM
Dame Juliet Wheldon DCB, QC

This group of distinguished people is drawn from the fields of diplomacy, counter-terrorism, the police, the military, science, business, economics and law.

At today's meeting, the Forum will concentrate on two main issues: the national security implications of the economic downturn and the national security implications of competition for energy supply.

NSID—formed in 2007 and comprising heads of security services, the police, the armed forces and others, as well as the relevant Cabinet Ministers—considers and articulates national security priorities. NSID will commission advice from the National Security Forum when it meets. It is intended that the Forum will meet approximately six times a year.

Although the detailed work of the Forum will constitute advice to Ministers and as such will be confidential, the Government will report annually on its activity.

As well as informing National Security Strategy updates, it is likely that, in the future, the Forum may discuss other cross-cutting national security issues, including the UK's approach to cyber security. Cyber security interfaces with almost all of the challenges highlighted in the National Security Strategy, and as such is the focus of a current cross-Departmental project led by the Cabinet Office.

Like the Strategy itself, the National Security Forum is part of our unwavering commitment to the safety of all British people.

TRANSPORT

Airports (Economic Regulation)

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Geoffrey Hoon): I am today publishing a consultation document on proposals to reform the economic regulation of airports. Economic regulation plays an important role in ensuring that airports, particularly in the south east of England, make the best use of existing capacity, have regard to the environmental impact of their operation and deliver a responsive service to their customers, at an acceptable price.

There has been considerable criticism of the current legislation, which has remained essentially unchanged since the privatisation of the British Airports Authority over 20 years ago. I have listened carefully to the points made by the aviation industry, passenger representatives, airport operators, the Competition Commission, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and other interested stakeholders. I have also taken advice from Professor Martin Cave and a panel of regulatory experts, who have been undertaking detailed work over the last few months.

These proposals are designed to put the passenger at the heart of the regulatory regime. To demonstrate this, I am proposing a number of key changes.

Firstly, I propose that the CAA should be given, in its role as the economic regulator for airports, a primary duty towards the passenger. Secondly, I propose to put the consumer representation for air passengers on a statutory footing for the first time. I intend to do this by transferring the functions and expertise of the Air Transport Users Council to Passenger Focus. Passenger Focus has a well established reputation as an effective advocate for rail passengers. It is also taking on a similar role for bus passengers. Giving it responsibility for air transport will enable a traveller's end-to-end journey to be considered within a single organisation.

As further evidence of the Government's commitment to air passengers, I am also publishing a report 'Understanding the Airport Passenger Experience', which gives more insight into the end-to-end airport journey and the types of improvements passengers actually want. Together with this, I am publishing advice from the CAA on improving the air passenger experience, and the results of a passenger survey. Copies of these reports and the consultation document have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

I want economic regulation to be targeted, flexible and efficient. I am therefore proposing the introduction of a licence-based scheme of regulation, similar to that which exists already in other regulated sectors. Only the very largest airports—those with over 5 million passengers per annum or with significant market power—would require a licence. This will deliver greater certainty about the ability of airport operators to finance the necessary investment in airport and runway capacity needed to improve the passenger experience. In addition these proposals, while ensuring that passenger interests will continue to be safeguarded, will remove 42 smaller airports from economic regulation.

It is also essential that airports take fully into account the environmental consequences of their operations. I intend to give the CAA an environmental duty with respect to its economic regulatory functions. This will ensure that, when operating as an economic regulator, the CAA will consider the environmental consequences of its decisions.

I propose that all 13 airports with more than 5 million passengers per annum should be required to produce an annual report on the environmental impact of their operations, and their mitigation measures. This would happen alongside the publication of their annual report and accounts, and will give the airports and the communities which they serve important information.

I believe that these proposals are not only an important step forward in their own right, but that they are important enabling measures around which further environmental policy can be developed and implemented. These proposals are in addition to the Department's work on aviation and the environment which were outlined to the House in my oral statement of 15 January 2009.

As part of our comprehensive environmental approach we will also be consulting later in 2009 on the operation of a proposed "green slots" arrangement at Heathrow airport and on the details of how to apply enforceable mechanisms—to which we are committed—ensuring that noise and air quality limits at Heathrow are met. We will also consult on proposals to implement Sir Joe Pilling's recommendations to update the CAA's overall strategic remit. I will inform the House in due course as we make progress on this work.

Local Transport Act 2008 (Quality Partnership Schemes)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Paul Clark): The Government are today publishing their response to the consultation on draft regulations and guidance to support the provisions in the Local Transport Act 2008 about quality partnership schemes (QPSs). Copies of the Government's response to the consultation will be available on the Department for Transport's website www.dft.gov.uk and in the Libraries of both Houses.

Regulations about QPSs will come into force on 6 April 2009, and statutory guidance to local transport authorities and metropolitan district councils under part 2 of the Transport Act 2000 will be issued shortly. Copies of the statutory guidance will be made available in the Libraries of both Houses.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 10 March 2009

TREASURY

EU Financial Affairs Council

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council will be held in Brussels on 10 March 2009. The following items are on the agenda:

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STABILITY AND GROWTH PACT - STABILITY AND CONVERGENCE PROGRAMMES

Ministers will adopt Council opinions on stability and convergence programmes of 21 EU member states. The UK supports a prudent interpretation of the Stability and Growth Pact (SGP) which takes into account the economic cycle, sustainability and the important role of public investment.

PREPARATION OF THE SPRING EUROPEAN COUNCIL

a) Key Issues Paper

After discussion in February, ECOFIN will adopt the Key Issues Paper on economic and financial matters, which will be its main contribution to the spring European Council. The Government support the presidency's paper, which emphasises the challenges in 2009, and the remaining need for action to stabilise financial markets and facilitate a speedy economic recovery.

b) Common messages to the G20 summit

Ministers will hold a discussion with a view to establishing the EU's position on economic and finance matters to feed in to the G20 London summit in April. The Government believe that the EU should take a leading role in laying the foundations for a sustainable economic recovery.

c) Country-Specific Integrated Recommendations

ECOFIN will adopt a report to the European Council regarding broad guidelines for economic policy, which will include an assessment of the first year of the Lisbon Strategy's second three-year cycle. The report will focus on country-specific integrated recommendations to be made to individual member states within the framework of the European economic recovery plan.

d) Reduced VAT rates

The presidency will seek political agreement on reduced rates of VAT. The Government will look carefully at the presidency's draft compromise proposal and continue discussions with other member states at ECOFIN.

e) International financing of climate change

After discussion by Finance Ministers in January, the Council will agree a set of conclusions representing a joint EU position on the financing of climate change.

GENERAL BUDGET OF THE EUROPEAN UNION - COUNCIL PRIORITIES FOR THE 2010 BUDGET

The Council will be asked to adopt guidelines on its budgetary priorities for EU financial year 2010. The Government welcome these Council conclusions, which provide a useful base for ensuring a realistic and budget-disciplined 2010 EC budget.

Northern Rock

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ian Pearson): The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) is today publishing a report assessing the competitive implications of Government support to Northern Rock. When Northern Rock was taken into a period of temporary public ownership in February 2008, the commitment was given that the OFT would produce an annual report considering the competitive effects of public support to the company.

Given the turbulence in the financial markets and increase in Government support to the banking sector, as reported in PBR 08, the OFT has announced that it will publish a Financial Services Strategy for consultation in March 2009. Following this, the OFT will develop a Financial Services Plan. It is anticipated that work conducted within the plan will examine consumer and competition issues across the financial services sector including consideration of competition issues relating to public support to banks, including Northern Rock.

I have placed copies of the report in the Libraries of both Houses.

Tax Appeals

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): From 1 April 2009, tax appeals will be heard by the First-tier Tax Chamber within the tribunal set up under the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007. The First-tier Tax Chamber will operate under a common set of procedural rules for all tax appeals.

For appeals made but not heard before 1 April 2009, the procedural rules of the First-tier Tax Chamber will apply. However, the new tribunal has the discretion to continue to apply the rules of the existing tribunals—General and Special Commissioners for Income Tax and the VAT and Duties Tribunal—on a transitional basis.

For indirect tax appeals made before 1 April 2009 this means the tribunal may continue to operate the existing costs rules in the VAT and Duties Tribunal. Where this happens the practice set out by the right hon. Robert Sheldon, now Lord Sheldon of Ashton-under-Lyne, on 13 November 1978—and restated on 24 July 1986 by the right hon. Peter Brooke, now Lord Brooke of Sutton Mandeville—will also continue to apply on a transitional basis, and HMRC will not seek costs from appellants in most cases. HMRC has today placed on its website guidance about these transitional arrangements.

As the Government said in "Transforming Tribunals: Implementing Part 1 of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007—The Government's Response", published on 19 May 2008 by the Ministry of Justice, HMRC will cease to operate the Sheldon practice in relation to appeals made on or after 1 April 2009.

Foreign Currency Transactions (Taxation)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): I am today announcing the Government's intention to present to the House of Commons a change to tax rules designed to ensure that both businesses and the Exchequer are protected from the uncertainty of exchange rate movements during the period of a rights issue of shares.

This measure will ensure that where a company is making a rights issue of shares to strengthen its capital base which is denominated in a different currency from its accounting currency it can protect the capital raised from exchange rate risk in a way that is tax neutral for the company and the Exchequer.

This objective will be achieved by ensuring that any exchange gain or loss on the hedging instrument in such situations will be disregarded, consistent with the tax treatment of other types of hedging transactions. This will remove the exchange rate tax risk posed to Exchequer under the current tax treatment of companies hedging against exchange rate movements on the proceeds of a rights issue.

To ensure that the full value of the rights issue will bolster the company's capital position, any gain arising from the hedging transaction that is subsequently distributed to shareholders will be taxed in the normal way.

This measure will be introduced by statutory instrument. It will apply to hedging transactions undertaken on or after 1 January 2009 and still current at today's date. The change will ensure that no company is disadvantaged for tax purposes in respect of exchange movements on existing transactions before today's date.

Draft regulations and the accompanying explanatory memorandum will be published on HM Revenue and Customs' website as soon as possible.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Ofsted (Contingency Fund Borrowing)

The Minister for Schools and Learners (Jim Knight): The Department for Children, Schools and Families has today requested parliamentary approval for additional resources of £20,000,000 for The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (Ofsted) prior to funding of £20,000,000 from the Spring Supplementary estimate becoming available.

Ofsted requests a repayable cash advance from the contingencies fund as its Spring Supplementary estimate is not due to receive Royal Assent until late March 2009. This timing difference was not factored into cash flow projections. This cash advance is required to meet its contractual obligations to pay suppliers within the required 10 working days. Upon parliamentary approval of the Spring Supplementary, Ofsted will make immediate repayment of the advance to the contingencies fund.

Parliamentary approval for additional resources of £20,000,000 will be sought in a Supplementary estimate for Ofsted. Pending that approval, urgent expenditure estimated at £20,000,000 will be met by repayable cash advances from the contingencies fund.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Migration Reform (Points-Based System)

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas): The Government are continuing to deliver the biggest shake-up of the immigration system for over 45 years, delivering a stronger border that maximises the use of new technology, a selective Australian-style points system to control migration and a clear expectation that newcomers need to earn the right to stay.

Last year we made key changes to our border protection, including checking fingerprints before we issue a visa, screening all travellers against watch-lists and introducing a single border force with police-like powers for frontline staff. We also introduced Tiers 1, 2 and 5 of the Points Based System for skilled and temporary workers and new rules for business and special visitors.

I have laid the immigration rules that will implement Tier 4 of the Points Based System (PBS) for international students.

The PBS is part of a robust system of controls that is designed to prevent illegal migration and to welcome only those migrants that the country needs. This Government are committed to encouraging people from overseas to study in the United Kingdom. We recognise the contribution that international students make to the UK economy and the benefits that encouraging overseas students brings in terms of diffusing British values and fostering a positive view of the UK overseas. At the same time it is also vital that we prevent abuse of our student migration rules by those who whose real intention is to work here without proper authorisation.

The new rules set stricter limits on courses involving work placements to ensure these are not used as a route for disguised employment and limit the amount of time those coming to the UK to study as adults can spend on low level courses.

In addition, the new rules will require those who come here to study to have a licensed sponsor before they can be admitted. In doing so, we will be ensuring that those who benefit from migration take responsibility for the migrants that they bring to the UK, and take more responsibility for their recruitment decisions.

These rules also make specific provision for child students coming to the UK under Tier 4, and clearly set out the care arrangements that must be in place to safeguard these children before they will be able to come to the UK for their education.

Full details of the changes appear in the explanatory memorandum that I laid with them. Policy guidance for those seeking admission under Tier 4 is also being made available today on the United Kingdom Border Agency's website at http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/studyingintheuk/

Other key changes made by this Statement of Changes are:

The new rules also make changes to Tier 1 of the Points Based System for highly skilled workers. Applicants under the Tier 1 (Post-Study Work) route will no longer receive points for postgraduate certificates and diplomas other than UK postgraduate certificates of education and those applying for their first period of leave under Tier 1 (General) will no longer receive points for bachelor's degrees or for pervious earnings of less than £20,000.

The amendments to Tier 1 (General) were announced by the Home Secretary on 22 February. At a time of rising unemployment it makes sense to control inflow and be more selective about the migrants who come to the UK. This more selective Tier 1 policy will give the most highly skilled migrants—the migrants who make the greatest economic contribution to the UK—access to the labour market while ensuring that other skilled migrants can only enter under Tier 2, which is designed to ensure that migrants are only admitted for skilled work where there is nobody available within the resident

labour force to fill the post. An impact assessment for this change and an enhanced resident labour market test is available in the House Library.

The amendment to Tier 1 (Post Study) will also contribute towards this aim while ensuring that the UK remains an attractive destination for skilled migrants studying for a bachelor's degree. The removal of the postgraduate certificates and diploma route from Tier 1 (Post Study Work) also responds to evidence of a high level of abuse of these provisions. However, we will continue to award points for UK postgraduate certificates of education as there is no evidence of abuse of the qualification and students must meet robust requirements including mandatory previous qualifications in order to gain this qualification.

We are also amending the Tier 2 and 5 rules introduced in November to enable overseas qualified nurses and midwives to switch from the Government authorised exchange sub-category of Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) into Tier 2 (General) on completion of their registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council and to allow footballers who come to the UK in the creative and sporting sub-category of Tier 5 (Temporary Worker) to switch into Tier 2 (Sportsperson) category of the Points Based System (PBS). The new rules will also allow, subject to certain conditions, private servants in diplomatic households who have been working in the UK in the international agreement sub-category of Tier 5 for a continuous period of five years to be eligible to apply for settlement.

The new rules introduce further clarification of the activities in which business visitors are permitted to engage.

The new rules amend the existing knowledge of life provisions, deleting the provision under which applications for indefinite leave in categories that require the knowledge of language and life in the United Kingdom but do not meet this requirement are automatically considered for an extension of stay.

The new rules make provision for unmarried and same-sex partners of armed forces members who are exempt from immigration control to be granted limited leave and make provision for spouses, civil partners, unmarried and same-sex partners of members of HM Forces to be granted indefinite leave where their serving spouse-civil partner-unmarried or same-sex partner has completed at least five years continuous service.

The new rules also amend the existing definition of public funds.

Immigration and Asylum (War Crimes)

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas): The Race Relations (Immigration and Asylum) (War Crimes etc.) Authorisation 2007 and the Race Relations (Nationality) (War Crimes etc.) Arrangements 2007 enable the Secretary of State to subject certain applications to more rigorous scrutiny than she subjects like applications from persons of other nationalities to, for the purposes of determining whether the applicant has committed, or been complicit in the commission of, or otherwise been associated with the commission of war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide. Copies of the authorisation have been placed in the Library.

The condition for subjecting these applications to more rigorous scrutiny is that the applicant is a national of a State specified on a list approved personally by the Minister for the purpose of the authorisation and arrangements. I have now reviewed and approved these lists in accordance with our commitment to do so annually.

The authorisation and arrangements will continue to be reviewed on an annual basis and will both remain in force until revoked.

CABINET OFFICE

Public Services

The Minister for the Cabinet Office (Mr. Liam Byrne): Today the Government publishes 'Working Together: Public Services on Your Side' which sets out a long term vision for public services and concrete measures for the year ahead. The paper sets out the Government's belief that more power should be given to citizens to personalise and control their services; more freedom should be given to frontline public servants in the delivery of services; and central Government should be stronger in guaranteeing high quality services and also more efficient.

Copies of 'Working Together: Public Services On Your Side' have been placed in the Vote Office and the Libraries of both Houses.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 11 March 2009

TREASURY

Tax Information Exchange Agreement

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): A new tax information exchange agreement with Jersey was signed on 10 March 2009, alongside an arrangement amending the 1952 arrangement with Jersey for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income.

Tax information exchange agreements play a vital role in HMRC's drive against offshore avoidance and evasion. They enable HMRC to obtain information not previously available for the purpose of assessing the amount of UK tax due. Jersey's decision is very welcome and a crucial step in the right direction. The Government are urging other countries who have not yet met international standards drawn by OECD to bring forward necessary reforms.

After signature, the text of the agreement and the arrangement were deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and made available on HM Revenue and Customs' website. The texts will be scheduled to a draft Order in Council and laid before the House of Commons in due course.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Planning Appeal Service

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Iain Wright): The Planning White Paper, "Planning for a Sustainable Future", published in May 2007 with the accompanying consultation paper "Improving the Appeal Process in the Planning System", signalled the Government's intention to improve the planning appeals service to make it more proportionate, customer focused and efficient, while maintaining the principles of fairness, openness and impartiality. Measures to achieve this were included in the Planning Act 2008[1] and in regulations which are being laid before Parliament[2] today. This statement sets out the Government's policies on how the new regime should operate.

Section 196 of the Planning Act 2008 amended the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to give the Secretary of State the power to determine the procedure by which appeals will be dealt with: on the basis of representations in writing, at a hearing or at a local inquiry. This power will commence in relation to planning and enforcement appeals on 6 April 2009. The principal parties to an appeal, being the appellant and the local planning authority, will have the opportunity to put forward their views on their preferred procedure. Final decisions will take account of any representations from these parties and will have reference to published criteria, which are approved by the Secretary of State and will be kept under review. The criteria are published on the Planning Inspectorate's website. Appeals on householder applications that are deemed suitable for written representations will normally proceed through an expedited procedure, designed to give a decision within eight weeks. The aim in all cases is to use the most appropriate procedure consistent with the complexity of the case without any loss of quality in the decision making process.

The Government have asked the Advisory Panel on Standards (APOS) to continue to review the performance of the Planning Inspectorate. It will monitor the operation of the new regime and, in particular, will investigate any case of complaint about the application of criteria to the choice of appeal method. The Secretary of State will take account of advice from APOS when conducting an annual review of these criteria.

The Secretary of State's ability to deliver timely and high quality decisions on planning and enforcement appeals will rely on all parties observing good practice. In anticipation of the possibility of appeal, local planning authorities should ensure that their reasons for a decision are clear, precise and comprehensive, especially when the decision taken by elected members differs from that recommended by their officers. When refusing an application, local planning authorities should consider carefully whether they have a sufficiently strong case, capable of being argued at appeal, on the basis of the material before them.

Appellants should also ensure that their grounds of appeal are clear, precise and comprehensive and relate to the scheme as refused at application stage, without substantial changes which could lead to any party being prejudiced. Applicants should not normally proceed to appeal unless all efforts to negotiate a solution with the local planning authority, including through amending their proposals, have been exhausted. They should be confident at the time of appeal that they have a clear case and do not need to commission further evidence.

Once an appeal is accepted and validated by the Planning Inspectorate, it is crucial that all parties adhere to the statutory deadlines at each stage. Parties should also maintain a regular and continuing dialogue to ensure that the issues can be clearly established between them, with no last minute surprises arising.

Following consultation, the costs awards circular "Costs awards in appeals and other planning proceedings" will shortly be reissued and will be available on the Communities and Local Government website. It is important that all parties use the costs regime properly to regulate the system and to ensure that all who use it do not act unreasonably and lead others to incur unnecessary expense. The Secretary of State will be able to award costs in all cases when requested to do so by one or more of the parties, including those dealt with through written representations. Each case will be assessed on its merits.

The Planning Inspectorate is issuing more detailed guidance on the conduct of the appeal process, to assist parties in appeal cases. This guidance is endorsed by the Secretary of State and will provide a reference point for planning inspectors when determining appeal cases.

[1]Section 184—Correction of errors in decisions, Section 196—Determination of certain proceedings and Schedule 10. (See also The Planning Act 2008 (Commencement No. 1 and Savings) Order 2009 (2009 No. 400 (C. 22)).

[2]The Town and Country Planning (Appeals) (Written Representations Procedure) (England) Regulations 2009 (2009/452), The Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) (Amendment) (England) Order 2009 (2009/453), The Town and Country Planning (Determination of Appeal Procedure) (Prescribed Period) (England) Regulations 2009 (2009/454), The Town and Country Planning (Hearings & Inquiries Procedures) (England) (Amendment) Rules 2009 (2009/455)

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Audiovisual Media Services Directive

The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (Andy Burnham): I am today setting out how the Government intend to proceed with implementation of the European Union Audiovisual Media Services (AVMS) Directive.

The AVMS Directive amends the Television Without Frontiers Directive and extends its scope to cover video-on-demand services. It enables us to permit product placement—if we choose to do so—in certain types of television programmes and subject to certain controls and safeguards. It gives the UK responsibility for regulating non-EU satellite channels which are uplinked to satellite from within our territory. It allows television broadcasters to take short extracts from other broadcasters' exclusive coverage of events for the purpose of news reporting. Lastly, it makes changes to the amount and scheduling of advertising allowed in television broadcasting. The Directive must be implemented by 19 December 2009.

The Government consulted last year on implementation proposals for four main areas of the Directive: the definition of the services to be regulated; the regulatory arrangements for video-on-demand services; product placement; and the regulation of non-EU satellite channels. I shall address each of these issues in turn.

First, the Directive requires us to regulate the content of video-on-demand services—that is, mass media services whose principal purpose is to provide television programming to the public on demand. It calls for this to be done through co-regulatory arrangements in which the video-on-demand industry takes responsibility for ensuring content standards.

Ofcom will be given powers to regulate UK video-on-demand services so that Ofcom can then designate, and delegate powers to, an industry-led co-regulatory body to regulate programme content in these services.

These arrangements will ensure that UK video-on-demand services maintain, as a minimum, the standards and requirements set out in the Directive. All UK providers will need to notify the co-regulator that they are providing a video-on-demand service.

The Directive does not allow us to rely on self-regulation, but it is right that industry should be allowed and encouraged to set up and manage its own regulatory arrangements as far as possible, as it has done very effectively since 2003 through the self-regulatory body, the Association for Television On Demand. In the light of these decisions, the Government urge video-on-demand service providers to work together to finalise the details of the new co-regulatory arrangements.

The Directive's definition of the on-demand services to be regulated will be transposed into UK legislation. The definition is narrow and covers only mass media services whose principal purpose is to provide television-like programming to users. The co-regulator will be able to issue guidance on the interpretation of the definition and on the services which fall within its scope. Those whose role is only to provide access to other providers' video-on-demand services will not be responsible for the content of those services. However, the Government expect that access providers will want to ensure, as far as possible, that all video-on-demand services to which they provide access meet the minimum standards required for UK video-on-demand services.

The Government also expect that Ofcom will designate, and delegate powers to, the Advertising Standards Authority (ASA) to regulate advertising in video-on-demand services. This will maintain the ASA's role as a 'one-stop shop' for all complaints about advertising. The Directive's definition of the advertising to be regulated will be transposed into UK legislation, and the ASA will be able to issue guidance on the interpretation of the definition and the advertising which falls within its scope. The Government expect that this will cover all advertising in video-on-demand services, both that which is included in programmes and that which accompanies them.

For both programme content and advertising, Ofcom will retain 'backstop' powers to deal with serious or repeated breaches of the standards and to intervene in the event of systemic failure.

Second, the Directive sets out new EU rules on product placement in television and video-on-demand. These require member states to prohibit product placement but allows them to make exceptions to permit it in certain types of programme, if they choose to do so.

Last year, when we launched the consultation, I indicated an initial preference to maintain the status quo on product placement in television programmes. I said, however, that the Government would listen to both sides of the argument. The Government have received many representations on the matter since then, and we have considered them carefully alongside existing research and evidence.

Programme makers, commercial broadcasters and advertisers have argued that product placement would give broadcasters a new source of revenue. Responses provided a range of assessments of the value of this revenue. Ofcom's assessment in December 2005 of the revenue of product placement in the UK market was that most observers thought it might be worth around £25-35 million after five years. Respondents believed that the expected revenue would help maintain investment to ensure quality and diversity of programmes on British television. They also argued that rules ensuring that products are not unduly prominent in programmes would make sure that product placement did not detract from viewers' enjoyment.

On the other hand, consumer and viewer groups argued that allowing product placement in television programmes would bring about a blurring of the distinction between advertising and editorial content in television

programmes which would undermine the trust viewers have in the integrity of UK-made programming. It was also argued that allowing product placement would risk undermining the creative integrity of writers.

Others were concerned that product placement could weaken the effectiveness of our restrictions on the promotion to children of foods high in fat, salt or sugar.

The Government recognise the legitimate points made in these submissions and the strength of feeling on both sides of this issue.

On balance, and mindful of the need to maintain public trust in television broadcasters and British television's reputation for high standards, the Government have concluded that no conclusive evidence has been put forward that the economic benefit of introducing product placement is sufficient to outweigh the detrimental impact it would have on the quality and standards of British television and viewers' trust in it.

Therefore, the Government have decided to maintain the status quo so that product placement will continue to be prohibited in television programmes made by and for UK television broadcasters.

The Government recognise that these are challenging times for broadcasters and are prepared to look at new evidence as it emerges and to consider first other avenues to assist broadcasters. Through a separate process arising from the AVMS Directive, Ofcom is currently reviewing the rules on the quantity and distribution of television advertising. This review will consider the different regimes which currently apply for public service broadcasters (PSBs) and non-PSBs. Ofcom's conclusions will be announced after Easter.

We will review the position on television product placement in 2011-12, taking into account the conclusions reached by Ofcom on the quantity and distribution of television advertising, changes in viewing habits, and any new evidence about the impact and potential benefits of product placement.

Product placement is currently allowed in programmes made by and for UK video-on-demand services. Maintaining the status quo means that this will continue, subject to the limitations and safeguards imposed by the Directive and the co-regulator.

Product placement will also continue to be permitted in films, and in television programmes acquired from outside the UK, subject to the limitations and safeguards imposed by the Directive. Prop placement will continue to be permitted in all television and video-on-demand programmes, subject to the requirements of the Directive and to guidance from Ofcom and the video-on-demand co-regulatory body.

Finally, the Directive requires member states to ensure that non-EU satellite TV channels which are uplinked from their territory and can be received within the community meet minimum EU standards. A channel is uplinked from a member state if that country hosts the ground station from which the television signal is sent up to the satellite for broadcast.

As a result, non-EU satellite television channels which are uplinked from within the UK and which are not already within the jurisdiction of another member state of the EU or European economic area will be required to have a broadcasting licence issued by Ofcom. This will ensure that Ofcom can take appropriate action against them if they breach the standards set out in the Directive. Providers of uplink services will be required to stop uplinking a channel if they are informed by Ofcom that the channel does not have a licence or that it is in breach of the licence conditions, but they will not be required to check that a channel has a licence before agreeing to uplink it, or to monitor broadcasts themselves.

The Government are working closely with Ofcom and with the broadcasting and video-on-demand industries to establish the new regulatory arrangements.

The Government are onsidering separately the implementation of the short reports provisions of the Directive.

Later this year, the Government will lay before Parliament an Order under Section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972 to implement the new arrangements in UK law.

HEALTH

Organ Donation and Transplantation

The Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson): Organ donation is one of medicine's great success stories, transforming thousands of people's lives each year. However, around 8,000 people in the United Kingdom are currently waiting for an organ transplant and each year approximately 1,000 people die or are taken off the national list before a suitable organ becomes available. We want to enable as many UK nationals as possible to have a life saving or life enhancing organ transplant. That is why we accepted the Organ Donation taskforce recommendations last year and why we are investing significantly in the donation infrastructure.

We are aware that some people resident in other countries within the European Union needing transplants are being referred to the UK. This has led to accusations of priority being given to non-UK patients. We want to optimise the availability of organs for transplant for NHS patients and ensure public confidence in the fairness and transparency of the organ allocation system in the UK. We have therefore asked Elisabeth Buggins, the chair of the former Organ Donation Taskforce, to examine policy and practice within the framework of European law on the use of organs from UK deceased donors in respect of the referral, acceptance and transplantation of non-UK EU residents including the different funding arrangements and to report her findings to the Department by June 2009.

JUSTICE

Mental Capacity Act 2005

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): The Ministry of Justice has today published the Government response to the consultation on "Reviewing the Mental Capacity Act 2005 - Forms, Supervision and Fees". Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and are available on the Ministry of Justice website at: http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/consultations-with-response.htm

The consultation ended on 15 January 2009 and 76 formal written responses were received. The consultation response provides a summary of responses and the next steps in the light of the consultation and the ongoing work being undertaken to review the implementation of the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

The consultation sought views on proposed new Lasting Powers of Attorney (LPA) forms, Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) and Court of Protection fees and a new level of supervision for Court appointed deputies.

We plan to introduce revised LPA forms, which will be amended to take on board comments, received through consultation, in October this year and lay a fresh forms statutory instrument before the summer.

We will be changing the OPG's supervisory regimes to ensure they are more flexible and responsive to client needs and taking forward fees as proposed in the consultation document, including a reduction in the fee to apply to register a Lasting Power of Attorney from £150 to £120 with effect from 1 April 2009.

I have today laid before Parliament the Court of Protection Fees (Amendment) Order 2009 and the Public Guardian (Fees, etc.) (Amendment) Regulations 2009.

The Public Guardian (Fees, etc.) (Amendment) Regulations 2009 set out the fees to be charged for the services provided by the Public Guardian.

The Court of Protection Fees (Amendment) Order 2009 sets out the fees to be charged for matters coming to the Court of Protection.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Voice Risk Analysis

The Minister for Employment and Welfare Reform (Mr. Tony McNulty): I wish to update the House on the progress made in piloting Voice Risk Analysis technology.

In its 2005 strategy document "Reducing fraud in the benefit system: achievements and ambitions", the Government made a public commitment to test Voice Risk Analysis technology, as one method of preventing fraudulent claims to Social Security benefits over the telephone.

The Department is conducting its own research into the efficacy of Voice Risk Analysis based on trials by local authorities and Jobcentre Plus. The Department's research is based on field tests of the technology that assess its capacity to differentiate successfully between high and low risk claims. The Department is committed to ensuring that decisions to use or not use the technology are supported by evidence. The Department's evaluation is being conducted by departmental statisticians who are bound by a national code of practice.

Departmental statisticians have completed an evaluation of the data from six trials in local authorities and one by Jobcentre Plus. The pilots included reviews of existing housing benefit claims in local authorities or consortia of local authorities and new claims to income support and job seeker's allowance in Jobcentre Plus. One additional local authority trial returned too few calls for analysis.

In each trial customers provided information to support their claim over the telephone and staff used Voice Risk Analysis technology to help classify the call as high or low risk. A selection of customers from both groups was followed up with a face-to-face review that aimed to corroborate the operator's judgment by seeing whether this further investigation revealed changes that would have affected the benefit in payment.

The results are shown below.

	"Low risk" cases with benefit change following further investigation	*"High risk" cases with benefit change following further investigation*	*Difference between benefit changes in high and low risk cases*
New Claims			
Jobcentre Plus	29%	37%	8%
Reviews			
Birmingham	5%	40%	35%
Derwentside	4%	35%	31%
Edinburgh	12%	43%	31%
Harrow	22%	32%	10%
Lambeth	16%	21%	5%
Wealden	10%	12%	2%

Earlier this year, the Department announced a second phase of local authority pilots (24 in total) that are now underway and will run for 12 months. These will provide a broader evidence base and a clearer indication of the technology's capacity to distinguish reliably between high and low risk cases. Results will be available in spring 2010.

All of the councils involved have reported a very high level of customer satisfaction with the new process. Customers find it more convenient and faster than the previous process based on filling in forms or visits.

I will update the House as to the findings when they are available.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 12 March 2009

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Secondary Schools Admissions

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Sarah McCarthy-Fry): The schools admissions code has transformed the admissions system. We have outlawed unfair and covert admission practices which disadvantaged low-income families and increased social segregation. We have extended the role of the independent schools adjudicator allowing him to look into any admission arrangements that parents feel are unfair or overly complicated as well as requiring him to monitor compliance and report annually to the Secretary of State.

The Information as to Provision of Education (England) Regulations 2008 require local authorities (LAs) to submit data to the Department on how many families received an offer of a place at one of their preferred secondary schools. This year on Monday 2 March, almost 547,000 families were advised at which secondary school their child was being offered a place.

Today we are publishing validated data, based on returns from 149 LAs, showing that across the country 83.2 per cent. of families received an offer at their first preference school. This is an increase of 1.1 percentage points on last year's figures. A further 8.4 per cent. of families were offered a place at their second preference school and, in total, 94.6 per cent. were offered a place at one of their three preferred schools. I am placing a copy of these data in the Library of the House.

There is considerable variation nationally. Outside London, 86 per cent. of parents were offered a place in their first preference school. For Greater London, this figure is 66 per cent. However across London, over 93 per cent. of pupils have been offered a place at one of their chosen schools.

Parents have the right of appeal against any application that has been turned down; and over the summer, local authorities and schools will be re-allocating places where others have moved address or chosen a different education for their child.

Parents now have a fairer choice because of our action to enforce the code, and also more real choice because there has been a transformation in the quality of our state schools. More schools are judged by Ofsted as outstanding and more than 78,000 more young people are leaving school with five good GCSEs including English and mathematics than did so 10 years ago. In 1998, there were 1,600 schools where fewer than 30 per cent. of children achieved five or more good GCSEs including English and mathematics. Now there are just 440 below this minimum standard, and our national challenge programme is working to ensure that all schools reach this standard by 2011.

We are continuing to look at ways to improve the admissions system. The Secretary of State has recently asked the independent schools adjudicator to report on how admissions authorities are using random allocation.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Regional Spatial Strategy

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Sadiq Khan): Today my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government is publishing the East Midlands Regional Plan (Regional Spatial Strategy) (RSS) for the East Midlands which covers the period 2006-2026. Also published are the final Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment plus other supporting documents. This replaces RSS8 (issued in March 2005) with the exception of part of the Milton Keynes and South Midlands sub-regional strategy which remains extant.

The regional spatial strategy forms part of the statutory development plan for every local authority in the East Midlands and sets the framework for the production of local development frameworks and local transport plans. It provides the spatial plan for the development of the region, and the policy framework for employment, housing, transport and the environment.

The existing strategy (RSS 8), which is replaced today, was published in March 2005. The draft revision of the RSS was submitted to Government in September 2006 by the East Midlands regional assembly. It was tested by an examination in public lasting eight weeks during summer 2007 and the panel report was published in November 2007. Proposed changes were published on 22 July 2008 followed by a 12-week public consultation ending on October 17. We received 2,549 comments from 735 respondents.

We have carefully examined all the responses. The result is that we have rebased the housing figures from 2006 rather than 2001 to bring the plan more up to date. We have defined total housing provision for all authorities (apart from Northamptonshire where figures were not subject to review), setting out the total that local authorities need to plan for up to 2026. Responding to representations we have removed the five-year phasing of the housing provision which was introduced in the proposed changes and we have responded to the concerns of local authorities around Nottingham by reducing the level of increase for the city and adjusting the balance of numbers required between urban and rural areas for the suburban authorities, which reflect their concerns about land availability. Total provision in the Lincolnshire coastal districts of East Lindsey, Boston and South Holland remains limited and will be reviewed after a coastal strategy has been completed. A small adjustment to remove some double counting in the Leicestershire area has also been made.

The result is a total provision of 430,300 dwellings over the plan period, compared to 408,360 at the draft stage and 434,094 at proposed changes.

We have made some minor amendments to the text to clarify the position on climate change measures for local authorities who do not have an up to date development plan document. We believe this clarification will reduce the risk of confusion.

We have also made some changes to the pitch requirement figures for gypsies, travellers and showpeople, which clarify the timescales and remove some errors in the use of gypsy and traveller accommodation assessments.

Other minor changes and updating have also been done.

Copies of relevant documents have been placed in the Library of the House and will be provided to the region's MPs and MEPs, local authorities, the East Midlands regional assembly and the East Midlands development agency. The Regional Plan and all related documents are also available to download from the website of the Government office for the East Midlands: www.gos.gov.uk/goem/planning/regional-planning/.

DEFENCE

Chemical Weapons Convention

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): The UK's chemical protection programme is designed to protect against the use of chemical weapons. Such a programme is permitted by the chemical weapons convention, with which the United Kingdom is fully compliant. Under the terms of the convention, we are required to provide information annually to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). In accordance with the Government's commitment to openness, I am placing in the House of Commons Library a copy of the summary that has been provided to the organisation outlining the UK's chemical protection programme in 2008.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Reduction Commitment

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (Joan Ruddock): Today I am publishing the third consultation on the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC).

The Climate Change Act, which received Royal Assent in November last year, set legally binding targets for the UK to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 80 per cent. by 2050.

To meet this target, the Climate Change Act provided powers to create emissions trading schemes. The CRC will be the first scheme created under these powers. We have worked closely with the devolved Administrations in developing a scheme that will work across the UK. We believe the CRC will be the world's first mandatory carbon dioxide emissions trading scheme to auction all allowances. It will cover large non-energy intensive organisations from both the public and private sector such as all British central government departments, supermarkets, banks, local authorities, the National Health Service and universities. The sectors of the economy covered by the CRC account for approximately 10 per cent. of the UK's emissions. The CRC will start in 2010 and after a three year introductory phase we will introduce a declining cap on the amount of carbon this sector of the economy can emit. Government will take the views of the independent Committee on Climate Change into account when setting the cap to ensure that the environmental goals of the scheme will be met. The CRC is expected to deliver emissions savings of at least 4 million tonnes of CO^2 per year by 2020.

By harnessing financial and reputational drivers, the CRC will encourage participating organisations to use energy more efficiently, thereby reducing their energy costs and saving up to £1 billion by 2020. We expect that the market for energy efficient technology and energy services to grow in response to the CRC, spurring innovation and helping to lay the foundations for new, low carbon economic growth.

We have worked closely with stakeholders in business and the public sector to develop the scheme, and have consulted twice on the scheme design and implementation. The CRC will capture a diverse range of organisations, and so we have listened to the perspectives and experiences expressed - and these have been critical to the development of the scheme. I therefore believe that the CRC will successfully drive improvements in energy efficiency in a large sector of the economy.

I have today placed in the Libraries of the House, and published on the Department of Energy and Climate Change website, a consultation package on the draft CRC Order, which will form the statutory basis of the scheme. This includes the CRC consultation document, the CRC Draft Order, the CRC User Guide and a Regulatory Impact Assessment.

The consultation document:

describes CRC policy as determined over the course of the two previous consultations;

details the changes in policy since the last consultation;

seeks views on the Draft Order and in particular if it results in unintended consequences; and

seeks views on certain policy details.

I have also launched today a review of Climate Change Agreements (CCAs). The current scheme ends in 2013 and, subject to state aid approval, the scheme will be extended to 2017. CCAs have been highly successful in reducing emissions in the energy intensive sector. In 2006, the latest period for which information is available, sectors saved 16.4 million tonnes of CO^2 and an estimated £1.5 billion in energy costs, when measured against baselines. This review provides an opportunity to simplify the agreements for the benefit of business and Government, and to ensure coherence with other climate change policy.

The proposals in these consultation documents will help us reduce the carbon emissions from these sectors of the economy in the most cost-effective way possible. They will bring us one step closer to our goal of creating a thriving low carbon economy.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Environment Council

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): I and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change represented the UK at the Environment Council in Brussels on 2 March.

Member states adopted Council conclusions on the further development of the EU position on a comprehensive post-2012 climate agreement as a contribution to spring Council. These covered mitigation, the role of the carbon market, adaptation to the effects of inevitable climate change, financial support, technology co-operation and capacity building, and international climate change governance.

On genetically modified organisms (GMOs) the Commission's proposals were rejected and the Austrian and Hungarian safeguards on GM maize lines MON810 and T25 were endorsed.

Member states also discussed the proposed industrial emissions directive (which consolidates and amends several pieces of industrial emissions legislation, including the integrated pollution prevention control (IPPC) directive). The UK broadly welcomed the Commission proposal, but had concerns about the large combustion plant provisions, seeking necessary flexibilities. The UK raised concerns about setting widespread "minimum requirements" and extending the scope to smaller combustion plants and to additional poultry installations.

The Council also adopted a Council decision on whaling ahead of the next three-annual and inter-sessional meetings of the International Whaling Convention (IWC). The decision sets out the EU's position with regard to proposals for amendments to the International Convention on Regulation of Whaling and its schedule to be taken at the next three annual meetings of the IWC.

Finally, ministers adopted Council conclusions on the contribution to spring Council (non-climate change). The conclusions cover the European economic recovery plan, sustainable consumption and production, environmental technologies, natural resources, biodiversity, beyond GDP and better regulation.

Under "any other business" member states exchanged views on the fall in demand for recyclate materials, underlining the importance of maintaining public confidence in recycling and flagging the need for further Commission monitoring, analysis and, if necessary, action.

HEALTH

Prescriptions

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Dawn Primarolo): I regret that the written answer given to the hon. Member for East Worthing and Shoreham (Tim Loughton) on 10 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1800W, and the written answer given to the hon. Member for North Norfolk (Norman Lamb) on 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1044W, were incorrect. They should not have been based on monthly data on prescribing from December 2007 onwards. The NHS Business Services Authority processes for pricing prescriptions changed in mid-December 2007 and I have been advised that they cannot reliably estimate the prescribing of specific therapeutic groups for a specific age exemption category on a monthly basis from that time.

The correct reply for the written answer given to the hon. Member for East Worthing and Shoreham (Tim Loughton) is that the information requested is not available.

The correct reply for the written answer given to the hon. Member for North Norfolk (Norman Lamb) is that the Department does not hold information on the number of people aged 65 and over who have depression or have been diagnosed with depression. However, estimates derived from the Business Services Authority's exemption category estimates and national prescribing data indicate that between October 2006 and September 2007, the proportion of prescriptions for antidepressants dispensed to those aged 60 and over was 41.5 per cent. of items.

NHS Next Stage Review

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Mr. Ben Bradshaw): We are today laying before Parliament the Government response (Cm 7558) to the Health Committee report NHS Next Stage Review, which was published on 13 January.

"High Quality Care for All", the final report of the NHS Next Stage Review published in June 2008, set out a vision of an NHS that gives patients and the public more information and choice, works in partnership and has quality of care at its heart.

"High Quality Care for All" set out the national framework that will enable and support the delivery of the ambitious visions for local health and health care published by strategic health authorities in May and June of 2008. It is these visions, based on the work of local clinicians and unprecedented engagement with patients, staff and the public, that are at the heart of the NHS Next Stage Review.

The Committee's report concluded that there was much to commend in the review, welcoming in particular the open and consultative way in which it had been conducted and it's emphasis on quality and leadership within the NHS.

The Committee was concerned that weaknesses in primary care trust (PCT) commissioning meant that its implementation might be slower and more uneven than hoped. While welcoming the provision of additional primary care services that the Next Stage Review commits to, the Committee emphasised that this needs careful management and evaluation of its impact locally.

The Government response welcomes the Committee's report and sets out the measures that the Government have taken to improve PCT commissioning through the ambitious world class commissioning programme. It sets out the Government's commitment to growing and strengthening primary care and explains that delivery of the additional services the review commits to is a response to patient demand. Their delivery will be locally led and evidence-based.

Today's publication is in the Library of the House and copies are available to hon. Members from the Vote Office.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Control Orders (11 December 2008 - 10 March 2009)

The Minister for Security, Counter-Terrorism, Crime and Policing (Mr. Vernon Coaker): Section 14(1) of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005 (the 2005 Act) requires the Secretary of State to report to Parliament as soon as

reasonably practicable after the end of every relevant three-month period on the exercise of the control order powers during that period.

The level of information provided will always be subject to slight variations based on operational advice.

Control orders continue to be an essential tool to protect the public from terrorism, particularly where it is not possible to prosecute individuals for terrorism-related activity and, in the case of foreign nationals, where they cannot be removed from the UK.

As stated in previous quarterly statements on control orders, control order obligations are tailored to the individual concerned and are based on the terrorism-related risk that each individual poses. Each control order is kept under regular review to ensure that obligations remain necessary and proportionate. The Home Office continues to hold control order review groups (CORGs) every quarter, with representation from law enforcement and intelligence agencies, to keep the obligations in every control order under regular and formal review and to facilitate a review of appropriate exit strategies. The CORGs for this quarter fall outside of this reporting period and will be covered in the next report. However meetings were held in relation to the control orders in force within this reporting period on an ad hoc basis as specific issues arose.

During the period 11 December 2008 to 10 March 2009, two non-derogating control orders were made and served; three non-derogating control orders were made but not served; and two control orders were renewed in accordance with section 2(6) of the 2005 Act.

In total, 17 control orders are currently in force, six of which are in respect of British citizens. Five individuals subject to a control order live in the Metropolitan Police Service area; the remaining individuals live in other police force areas. All of these control orders are non-derogating. One individual has been charged with breaching a control order obligation; no prosecutions for breaching a control order were completed during this reporting period.

During this reporting period, 62 modifications of control order obligations were made. Twenty-one requests to modify control order obligations were refused. A right of appeal is provided for by section 10(1) of the 2005 Act against a decision by the Secretary of State to renew a non-derogating control order or to modify an obligation imposed by a non-derogating control order without consent. One appeal has been lodged with the High Court by a controlled person in relation to the renewal of a control order during this reporting period. A right of appeal is also provided for by section 10(3) of the 2005 Act against decisions by the Secretary of State to refuse a request by a controlled person to revoke their order and/or to modify any obligation under the order. One appeal has been lodged with the High Court by a controlled person relating to a refusal to modify his control order.

Three judgments have been handed down by the High Court in control order cases during this reporting period in relation to substantive reviews of the individual control orders under section 3(10) of the Prevention of Terrorism Act 2005. In *Secretary of State for the Home Department v. AR* a judgment was handed down on 19 December 2008. The court ruled in favour of the Secretary of State and upheld the control order and all of the obligations. A judgment was handed down in the case of *Secretary of State for the Home Department v. AU* on 20 January 2009. The court ruled in favour of the Secretary of State and upheld the control order and all of the obligations. In *Secretary of State for the Home Department v. GG & NN* a judgment was handed down on 12 February 2009. In the case of *NN*, the court quashed the renewal of *NN's* control order. (The quashing took effect on 24 November 2008 as set out in the last quarterly statement.) In the case of *GG*, the court upheld the control order, quashed one obligation and ordered that two further obligations be modified. The Secretary of State has appealed the court's decision to quash one of the obligations.

Two controlled persons applied to the Court of Appeal for permission to appeal against High Court judgments in the substantive reviews of their control orders in this reporting period.

A judgment was handed down by the Court of Appeal in the case of *Secretary of State for the Home Department v. Abu Rideh* on 17 December 2008 in which the appeal made by the Secretary of State was stayed.

The House of Lords heard the appeals in the cases of *AE*, *AF* and *AN* between 3 and 9 March 2009. The outcome of that hearing will be reported when judgment is available.

Full judgments are available at: http://www.bailii.org/.

PRIME MINISTER

List of Ministers' Interests

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): I have today published a list of Ministers' interests. The First Annual Report of the Prime Minister's Independent Adviser on Ministers' Interests has also been published alongside the List. Copies of both documents have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

TRANSPORT

Data Handling

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick): Subsequent to written answers I gave on 29 January, and 2 April 2008, and my written ministerial statements of 17 July 2008, to parliamentary questions on data handling, I would like to inform the House that further investigation has revealed additional information.

There are further instances of data being accessible overseas to be included in the response to the hon. Member for Chipping Barnet (Mrs. Villiers)—Question 175768, 29 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 197W and 17 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 54-55WS.

On behalf of Driving Standards Agency and the Secretary of State, two sector skills councils, Skills for Logistics and GoSkills operate and manage a Joint Approval Unit for Periodic Training (JAUPT). JAUPT uses a US based data processing company, Salesforce.com,

to process some of the data about the registration of the training courses, which included the following personal information:

Telephone numbers and e-mail addresses of employers, training providers, operators or suitably qualified individuals.

Name of person from the centre who made the application for it to become an approved centre.

Name and qualifications of all trainers delivering courses.

We have received confirmation from JAUPT that personal data are no longer processed in the US on behalf of DSA in relation to this activity.

Asite Ltd runs a web-based system for the Department for tendering purposes. The data are held in the UK and backed-up to the US and there is user administration access from India. The data include names, e-mail addresses and telephone numbers of about 150 individuals to allow them to access the web-based data room.

The Highways Agency uses Le Crossing Company Ltd, a French contractor in relation to payment of tolls. Personal data of account holders using the Dartford crossing toll system are stored in the UK but can be accessed from France for maintenance purposes. The data includes:

The name, address and telephone numbers of applicants for a "Dart-Tag".

The bank account details of holders of a Dart-Tag who pay by direct debit.

The Highways Agency uses Gallup for staff satisfaction surveys. Data stored in the US, including personal data, are as follows:

The names and line managers of permanent Highways Agency staff.

The responses these staff have made to a staff satisfaction questionnaire.

The information above, about Saleforce.com and Gallup should also be added to in response to question 197148 from the hon. Member for Carmathen, East and Dinefwr (Adam Price)—2 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1010-11W and 17 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 54-55WS.

February Snowfall

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Geoffrey Hoon): I would like to update the House on the process carried out to deal with the coldest winter the UK has faced for almost 20 years and in particular the heavy snowfalls experienced in early February across large parts of the UK, and how the Government propose to work with partners to identify and address the lessons.

First, I want to thank all of those who worked very hard in the transport sector and beyond over the last few weeks to minimise the disruption that was caused by the recent severe weather. Many people worked long hours throughout the period to maintain vital road and rail links, to keep airports open, to provide a whole range of essential services and to mine and deliver new supplies of salt for treating our roads. I am pleased that this hard work kept the country functioning during that recent period of severe weather and its aftermath.

The heavy snowfall had an impact on all parts of our transport systems. The robust efforts of the Highways Agency allowed the strategic road network in England to remain operational over the whole period and, although there were some closures due to road traffic accidents, they were cleared as quickly as was possible given the conditions. In cities, very heavy snowfalls created conditions which made driving very hazardous and—at their worst—led to the suspension of public transport.

On the main rail network, again, most train operating companies were able to continue running services—albeit, on occasion, services were disrupted, in particular services from the south of London into London were particularly disrupted from 2 February by the snow because of the use of the third rail to power the trains. Further snow later that week caused more problems for routes into London from the north and services across the south-west. In the following week, further snowfalls across the midlands, the east and the north caused further disruption.

Across the country, the weather had a significant impact on the national road network. Some parts of the national infrastructure, such as the Severn crossing and sections of road such as the A38 near Exeter, were particularly affected. I am grateful to the efforts of the authorities who were able to restore these to running efficiently, through hard work and a prudent management of the risks involved.

The weather also posed operational challenges to UK airports. Operations were on occasions suspended, with problems on public transport and local roads making it more difficult for travellers to get to and from the airports. Regional airports and those in the south-east of England responded admirably. The impact of the snow was particularly significant at Heathrow, where the fact that the airport is currently running at 99 per cent. capacity, has shown both the creativity and resilience of the airport operator, and the need for further runway capacity.

The cold spell presented challenges to both the Highways Agency and transport authorities around the country who needed reliable supplies of salt to keep roads flowing smoothly. Stocks of salt were heavily called upon. Salt stocks around the country varied significantly as local highway authorities had made different decisions about the levels of reserve required. Some local authorities chose to keep very high level of stocks, running as high as 25 days in some case; whereas others chose to operate with leaner reserves. While the latter approach is of course appropriate in a normal year, it does leave the relevant authorities exposed to abnormal weather events. As a result, in some cases stocks of salt became very low.

The Government and in particular the Highway Agency took a lead role in helping those local highway authorities who experienced difficulties with shortfalls in their salt levels. Mutual aid between authorities and with the Highways Agency helped to make sure that traffic kept flowing smoothly. For example, the Highways Agency stepped in to ensure salt deliveries over the weekend of 7 and 8 February at a time when salt suppliers would not normally have made deliveries. The Highways Agency were also flexible in running down its stocks to help prioritise supplies to local authorities with very low reserves.

The UK has, of course, not seen snow falls like early February for at least 18 years. The good news is that no highway authorities ran out of salt. The fall-back measures on the whole worked, and worked well, but we need to make sure we address those aspects that did not go well.

The House of Commons Transport Select Committee is undertaking a short review of the effects of the recent adverse weather. The Greater London Assembly is looking at how London's transport system responded. Individual local authorities will be undertaking their own lesson identified exercises. But I am keen that all the agencies involved in winter servicing take the opportunity to identify and address the lessons. I have therefore invited the UK Roads Liaison Group (UKRLG)—a partnership of central Government, devolved Administrations, trunk road authorities and local authorities—to review the lessons that can be learnt from recent events and to recommend what steps could be adopted by local highway authorities, trunk road authorities, producers of salt and other stakeholders to ensure the effective treatment of England's road networks in order that we are even better prepared should similar events occur in future years. I would expect that this advice of UKRLG will also be of benefit to the devolved Administrations.

I am placing a copy of this letter and the suggested terms of reference for the review in the Library of the House.

By working together we will ensure that we are even better prepared in future for responding to the challenges of the winter months.

Written Ministerial Statements

Friday 13 March 2009

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Housing Authorities

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Iain Wright): The Housing (Service Charge Loans) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2009 (SI 2009/0602) and The Housing (Purchase of Equitable Interests) (England) Regulations 2009 (SI 2009/0601) have today been laid before Parliament.

The regulations have been made under sections 450B, C and D of the Housing Act 1985 following amendments introduced by sections 308 and 309 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008. They empower housing authorities—ie, local authorities and housing associations—to offer interest-free equity loans to the owners ('leaseholders') of flats leased from those housing authorities, or to buy equitable interests in such flats. In both cases, this must be for the purpose of assisting leaseholders with the payment of service charges.

Tenants who buy flats from housing authorities and people who subsequently buy such flats on the open market are responsible for contributing towards the cost of repairing, maintaining and improving the properties in which those flats are situated. Some current works of repair, maintenance and improvement to local authority properties are generating high major works bills, particularly in London. The Government have reviewed the issues raised by these bills, and my right hon. Friend the Member for Pontefract and Castleford (Yvette Cooper), the former Minister for Housing and Planning made a written statement to the House on 29 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 118-119WS reporting progress and setting out further steps that the Government intended to take to address these issues. In that statement, we said that we intended to legislate to enable housing authorities to offer equity loans to leaseholders and to buy shares in properties to assist leaseholders in difficulties.

The Government are today using the new powers they introduced in the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 to enable housing authorities to offer equity loans and to purchase equitable interests in properties. It recognises that offering such help will involve administrative costs that housing authorities may wish to recoup by charging fees. We are also aware that high administrative fees might act as a barrier to leaseholders from taking up this offer. We therefore propose to consult in the next few weeks on whether there should be a statutory upper limit on such fees and, if so, what this limit might be.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

General Affairs and External Relations Council

The Minister for Europe (Caroline Flint): The General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) will be held on 16 March in Brussels. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I will represent the UK.

The agenda items are as follows:

GENERAL AFFAIRS

Preparation of the European Council, 19-20 March

The GAERC will discuss the presidency's agenda for the Spring European Council (SEC). The SEC will once again focus on the EU's response to the economic downturn, continuing the discussions from the Informal European Council on 1 March and advancing the EU position ahead of the G20 summit. There will also be reference to the de Larosière report on financial supervision in the EU.

The SEC will also discuss options for the climate finance offer ahead of the Copenhagen Climate Change conference in December and an action plan for EU energy security in accordance with the second strategic energy review. In addition, the SEC will examine the Eastern partnership, with a view to launching the initiative at a summit in May, while taking stock of the union for the Mediterranean.

The Government support the presidency's priorities for the SEC. We welcome a continued co-ordinated response to the economic and financial crisis and look forward to the SEC providing credible options for an ambitious climate finance offer and securing agreement on a practical action plan on EU energy security.

European Economic Recovery Plan

The Council will discuss elements of the European economic recovery plan (EERP) and will return, we expect, to discussion of potential means of financing the Commission's proposals for energy and broadband infrastructure projects. The Government will continue to scrutinise the Commission proposals in detail.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Western Balkans

We expect Ministers to focus on Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). There will be Conclusions.

Discussion will review progress towards meeting the conditions for closure of the Office of the High Representative (OHR). Ministers may consider how to strengthen the role of the EU Special Representative (EUSR) following eventual OHR closure, in order to tackle effectively the political challenges in BiH. We want to reinforce the messages sent by EU Foreign Ministers at the November 2008 GAERC on the need for BiH leaders to focus on the reforms that will be necessary for OHR closure. We will also underline the need for a robust EUSR mandate as and when OHR closes. Ministers may also discuss the EU's military mission in BiH, operation ALTHEA. Subject to completion of the selection procedure, Ministers are also likely to be asked to endorse CFSP High Representative Solana's nomination of a candidate to succeed Miroslav Lajcak in his double-hatted role as High Representative and EUSR.

Belarus

The Council will review progress made by Belarus since the temporary suspension of travel restrictions for six months in October 2008. The Council will decide whether to renew the suspension of restrictions for a further six month period and adopt Conclusions accordingly. During the past six months, the Belarusians have introduced a number of small reforms. However, we are concerned by the recent detention of three activists, two of whom were internationally recognised as political prisoners when detained previously, and the refusal to register the human rights non-governmental organisation (NGO) Nasha Vyasna. The UK's decision on whether to support renewal of the suspension will depend upon our assessment of the most effective way of supporting reform.

Sudan-International Criminal Court

The scope and content of any debate will depend on further developments following the 4 March ICC decision to issue an arrest warrant for President Bashir, and the Sudanese government's subsequent decision to expel 13 international humanitarian NGOs. The Czech presidency made a statement on the ICC decision on 5 March and on the NGO situation on 9 March. If the situation on the ground deteriorates, the Council may need to discuss options for further action.

Transatlantic Relations

The Council will discuss an EU agenda and objectives for the EU-US summit in Prague on 5 April, to which President Obama, Secretary Clinton and the leaders and Foreign Ministers of all EU member states will be invited. That meeting is likely to focus on foreign policy issues not covered at the London summit on 2 April and the NATO summit on 3-4 April, including climate change and energy. We will continue to reiterate our line at the Gymnich discussions in September and November 2008, namely that the EU should set out what it can do for the US, rather than just a list of expectations or hopes for US action.

Middle East Peace Process (MEPP)

Since the GAERC in February, the Gaza reconstruction conference has been held in Sharm where $4.5 billion was pledged by the international community. The key issues on the ground remain the same and there is continuing uncertainty over the make-up of the future government of Israel.

Any MEPP discussion is likely to focus on the Egyptian-led Palestinian reconciliation talks in Cairo. Ministers should receive an update on progress following an EU Troika (High Representative Solana, Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner and Czech Foreign Minister Schwarzenburg) dinner with the Egyptian, Jordanian and Palestinian Foreign Ministers on 15 March.

Afghanistan

We expect Ministers to adopt without discussion Conclusions reaffirming the EU's long-term commitment to the people and government of Afghanistan to promote stability, reconstruction and development, in particular through providing assistance with the 2009 elections and strengthening the EUPOL police reform mission.

EU Foreign Ministers will then discuss Afghanistan and the wider region at the Spring European Council, where we also hope to see Conclusions.

EUFOR Chad

We expect Ministers to adopt without discussion Conclusions welcoming the successful transition from the EU military mission, EUFOR Chad, to the UN peacekeeping mission MINURCAT, due to take place on 15 March; and noting the contribution of EUFOR Chad to the protection of civilians during the mission's one-year mandate.

Information on the G8 presidency programme

We expect Foreign Minister Frattini to update the Council on the Italian G8 presidency priorities for the La Maddalena Summit and G8 Foreign Ministers' meeting in June. The key issues on the summit agenda will be the global economy, climate change and international development. The Italian G8 presidency has also been active in promoting the co-ordination of humanitarian assistance to Gaza.

Montenegro

Ministers may also discuss how best to handle Montenegro's application for EU membership. We believe that the Council should forward the application to the European Commission in a timely manner. The Commission should then produce an Avis ('Opinion') on the merits of the application, based on the rigorous criteria governing the conditions-based accession process.

HEALTH

Cervical Cancer Screening

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Ann Keen): We are very proud of our cancer screening programmes in the National Health Service, which are internationally recognised as world-class. Experts predict that cervical screening saves around 4,500 lives every year in England and we want to ensure that our programme remains in the best interests of young women.

Cervical screening in England starts at 25 years—this is in line with World Health Organisation recommendations and is supported by advice from leading scientists in this country.

However, it is five years since we last reviewed the evidence and recent events, including the death of Claire Walker, have brought to light conflicting views on the issue of screening women aged under 25. We are aware of new evidence published in peer reviewed journals, and the National Cancer Intelligence Network has provided data on the effects of the age change on cervical cancer incidence and mortality. We want to ensure that the policy on starting screening at age 25 remains in the best interests of young women and is based on the latest available clinical evidence.

We have therefore asked the independent Advisory Committee on Cervical Screening (ACCS) to formally review the evidence relating to risks and benefits of cervical screening in women under 25 years, including current evidence regarding incidence and mortality in young women.

The evidence review will be led by Professor Henry Kitchener, Chair of the ACCS, with National Cancer Director Professor Mike Richards and the Director of NHS Cancer Screening Programmes Julietta Patnick.

The review will include representatives from the key cancer charities, and will consider any evidence they present to ACCS members.

The review is likely to take place at a specially convened meeting of the ACCS in late spring once we and other interested parties have had a chance to gather the appropriate evidence. The ACCS will make recommendations to Ministers shortly after the meeting.

The ACCS will review the latest available evidence in this area as well as consider how we can increase awareness of the importance of screening and encourage more women to decide to take up this important service.

TRANSPORT

Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick): My Noble Friend the Minister of State Department for Transport has made the following ministerial statement.

Further to my statement of 28 January 2009 about the outcome of the recent consultation on the draft Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations (Amendment) Order 2009, I have today published the Government's response to the second part of the consultation. Part two sought views on longer term issues concerning the future transposition of the renewable energy directive and the fuel quality directive. It is intended that a further consultation will be held later this year in order to seek views on detailed proposals for implementation of these directives.

Copies of the Government's response to part two of the consultation have been placed in the Library of the House and are available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Jonathan Shaw): The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council was held on 9 March 2009 in Brussels. I represented the UK for the first item of the agenda (Preparation for the Spring European Council) while all other agenda items were represented by my right hon. Friend the Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs (Mr. Pat McFadden). There were no health or consumer affairs issues.

This was a straightforward Council with the main agenda item being input to the spring European Council. Ministers adopted key messages, the Joint Employment Report 2008-09 and the Joint Report on Social Protection, and reached a general approach on a decision on the employment guidelines. The Commission outlined its communication of 4 March on driving european recovery, and the chairs of the Employment Committee and Social Protection Committee outlined their views of what was needed.

In the policy debate that followed, I intervened to stress that some European labour markets had not helped all groups sufficiently and we all need to strengthen employment and welfare policies, maintaining efforts for the most disadvantaged and also avoiding protectionism. Most interventions from other member states concentrated on these themes, with also calls for the London summit not to overlook employment and social issues, and some discussion of handling of the EU Jobs and Social summit on 7 May, on which the presidency will update member states shortly. The Council also adopted related conclusions on new skills for new jobs, and on worker mobility and free movement.

The Council also held a general policy debate based on revision of the directive on pregnant workers. For the UK, my right hon. Friend stressed that the UK had made significant improvements to maternity pay and leave in recent years and that any change to raise the European minimum standards should not undermine national policies. The UK's experience showed the success of a system developed in consultation with employers and workers. The Commission concluded on the need for further work and the presidency agreed to take forward.

The presidency presented a progress report on the negotiations on Commission proposals to revise the Regulation on the European Globalisation (Adjustment) Fund, noting that further discussion are needed in COREPER.

Under other business, the chairs of the Employment Committee and Social Protection Committee outlined their work plans for 2009. The presidency also summarised three of their recent conferences: Childcare and Employment; Potential of Migrants; and Enlargement Five Years After.

At the lunch, the presidency gave Ministers an update on preparations for working time conciliation. The Council also formally rejected the European Parliament's Second Reading amendments as an "A" point.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 16 March 2009

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Competitiveness Council

The Minister for Schools and Learners (Jim Knight): My right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Higher Education and Intellectual Property will be making a statement on the following: "Post-Council Written Statement (5 and 6 March) Competitiveness Council, Brussels".

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Turks and Caicos Islands: Governance

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Gillian Merron): On 15 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 14WS, the then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, responsible for the Overseas Territories, my hon. Friend the Member for Sheffield, Heeley (Meg Munn), informed the House that on 10 July the Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands had announced the appointment of a commission of inquiry into whether there is information that corruption or other serious dishonesty in relation to past and present elected members of the House of Assembly may have taken place in recent years.

I wish to inform the House that on 16 March 2009 the Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) published the interim report of the Commissioner, the right hon. Sir Robin Auld (www.tci-inquiry.org).

The Commissioner states that the written information obtained in the first six months of the Commission's inquiries, when coupled with the evidence in the public hearings in TCI earlier this year, have provided information in abundance pointing to a high probability of systemic corruption or serious dishonesty. In his view this, together with "clear signs of political amorality and immaturity and of general administrative incompetence, have demonstrated a need for urgent suspension in whole or in part of the constitution and for other legislative and administrative reforms", and change in other related matters.

In light of the accumulation of evidence in relation to TCI in the last year or so, and fortified by the Commissioner's interim report, the Government have formed the view that parts of the constitution will need to be suspended and have decided to take steps to enable it to do so. I am today making available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) website a draft Order in Council prepared by the FCO which would suspend parts of the constitution, including those relating to ministerial Government and the House of Assembly, initially for two years, although this period could be extended or shortened. The draft order will be submitted to Her Majesty in Council at a meeting on 18 March. If made, the order will be laid before Parliament on 25 March. Unless the Commissioner's final report significantly changes our current assessment of the situation, the order will be brought into force after the final report is received. However, the order could be brought into force sooner if circumstances arose in the territory prior to that date which justified suspending relevant parts of the constitution. This intervention is for an interim period only.

As drafted, the order would leave in place important elements of the constitution such as the fundamental rights chapter and provisions relating to the Governor, the courts and the public service, while removing the Cabinet, House of Assembly and references to ministerial and related powers. Powers and functions currently exercised by Ministers would be exercised by the Governor acting in his discretion, including in relation to public finances, legislation and necessary regulatory reform.

This would be an act of constitutional significance in order to restore the principles of good governance.

This statement is being laid at this time to allow the Governor to announce the publication of the interim report in parallel in the territory.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

St. Helena

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Douglas Alexander): I announced on 8 December, *Official Report*, column 40WS, a pause in negotiations over the St. Helena airport contract. Having reviewed the situation in the light of the current global economic climate, I have decided to hold a consultation on options for access to the island. DFID will issue a consultation document in early April. Any interested parties will be invited to submit their views. The Government of St. Helena and relevant commercial parties have been advised of the situation and will be kept updated.

PRIME MINISTER

UK Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and Western European Union

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): The hon. Member for Rochdale (Paul Rowen) has been appointed as a full member of the United Kingdom delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Assembly of Western European Union and Lord Chidgey has been appointed as a substitute member.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 17 March 2009

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

EU Competitiveness Council

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (Ian Pearson): The following statement provides information on the Competitiveness Council which took place in Brussels on 5 March 2009, at which I represented the UK. The meeting was chaired by Alexandra Vondra, Czech Deputy Prime Minister for European Affairs.

The meeting started with discussion of the Commission's single market review progress report. Member states agreed conclusions on the single market as a source of competitiveness and engine of economic recovery and that protectionism should be avoided in all circumstances. Single market priorities included rapid implementation of the Services Directive and Small Business Act. I emphasised three key points: to protect the integrity of the single market; to continue to improve the functioning of the single market; and to identify priority areas for action through targeted reforms.

The Commission presented a key issues paper on the Lisbon strategy for EU competitiveness. In discussion, member states wanted short-term responses to the economic crisis to be consistent with long-term structural reforms. Industrial and economic support measures should be co-ordinated and respect single market rules. Member states agreed that priorities for competitiveness were SME access to finance, innovation and research, reducing administrative burdens and the energy internal market. I stressed the need for globally open markets, completing the Doha world trade round, reviewing the EU budget, active labour market policies and for low carbon investment. The key issues paper was formally adopted after some discussion on the text.

Over lunch, Ministers discussed the economic crisis and the automotive sector. This continued in the afternoon session where member states agreed conclusions on the single market, avoiding discrimination and protectionism, as well as access to finance. The importance of research and innovation and underpinning infrastructure to foster green products and technologies were highlighted.

I emphasised the need for co-ordination at EU level to respond to the crisis in the European automotive industry, to avoid national protectionist measures and for European Investment Bank funding to the EU automotive industry to be sectorally and geographically balanced. I also said that the UK had reservations about the viability and value for money of vehicle scrappage schemes, but welcomed flexibility for member states to implement schemes as appropriate. In discussion the Commission raised concerns about the impact of the EU-Korea free trade agreement and in response I highlighted the wider benefits for the EU. The draft Council conclusions on the automotive industry were adopted, with the presidency concluding that there will be a further debate on the sector at the next Council in May.

The presidency briefly introduced its progress report on better regulation, highlighting the fact that over half of burdens come from Europe. The Commission was supportive of the report and said that better regulation was a top priority to help overcome the economic crisis.

Under any other business, a brief update was provided on EU enlargement, which the presidency said has been beneficial for all, and the Internal Market and Consumer Market Scoreboards. The Commission said that member states would be involved in a mid to long-term strategy for the Transatlantic Economic Council before the EU-US summit in June. Regarding the external dimension of EU competitiveness, the Commission emphasised the need for regulatory convergence and the benefits of multilateral agreements. On the Small Business Act package of EU measures to support small businesses, the Commission stressed the importance of implementation in view of the current economic crisis.

TREASURY

ECOFIN (10 March)

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council was held in Brussels on 10 March 2009. The following items were discussed:

Implementation of the Stability and Growth Pact—Stability and Convergence programmes

The Commission presented its views on the stability or convergence programmes submitted by 21 member states under the terms of the Stability and Growth Pact. Ministers agreed Council opinions on all 21 programmes, and stressed the importance of ensuring fiscal stimuli remained temporary, timely and targeted. The UK supports a prudent interpretation of the stability and growth pact which takes into account the economic cycle, sustainability and the important role of public investment.

Preparation of the Spring European Council

a) Key Issues Paper

ECOFIN adopted the key issues paper, which will be put forward at the Spring European Council on 19 and 20 March. The paper focuses on the challenges facing the EU in 2009, the need for short-term action to stabilise the economy and long-term measures to prevent recurrence. The UK supports the paper and particularly welcomes the assurances from the European Investment Bank about its lending for the automotive industry.

b) Common messages to the G20 summit

Ministers discussed the EU common messages to feed into the London G20 summit. Discussion centred on the presidency's proposed terms of reference, which were endorsed by the Council. The Government welcome the EU's participation in a meeting of G20 Finance Ministers on 14 March that will prepare the London G20 summit's discussions of the macro-financial response to the downturn, the reform of the international financial institutions and how to reshape the global financial regulatory system.

c) Country-Specific Integrated Recommendations

ECOFIN approved a report to the European Council regarding broad guidelines for economic policy. The

report focuses on country-specific integrated recommendations to be made to individual member states within the framework of the European economic recovery plan. The UK believes that in the current economic climate the implementation of the Lisbon strategy, including these recommendations, should be a priority for member states.

d) Reduced VAT rates

Ministers discussed reduced rates of VAT and reached political agreement on a limited number of changes to Directive 2006/112/EC, allowing member states greater flexibility to apply reduced VAT rates to certain supplies of goods and services. The Council also declared its full support for the prolongation for another two years of the UK's targeted reverse charge derogation aimed at combating intra-community VAT fraud. The UK welcomes the outcome of these discussions.

e) International financing of climate change

The Council discussed and agreed conclusions to form part of the EU's overall strategic approach to global climate negotiations in Copenhagen in December 2009. The UK welcomes the conclusions, which demonstrate the Council's commitment to tackling this issue.

General budget of the European Union—Council priorities for the 2010 budget

ECOFIN adopted Council conclusions on its budgetary priorities for the EU financial year 2010. The Commission welcomed the conclusions, highlighting the importance of sound financial management, effective forecasting and good budget implementation as the guiding principles for the budget. ECOFIN will revisit the subject in June, after the Commission's publication of the preliminary draft budget in May.

Other business

Convention on centralised customs clearance

Member states completed the signature of a convention on centralised customs clearance concerning the allocation of national collection costs retained when traditional own resources are made available from the EU budget. The Government welcome this step.

DEFENCE

Service Family Accommodation

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Kevan Jones): An asset survey of Service Family Accommodation (SFA) in England and Wales has been carried out as part of the Housing Prime Contract with Modern Housing Solutions. The survey was initially designed to compile an asset register (detailing for instance the make and model of boilers) but its scope was extended to collect "standard for condition" information and life cycle data for planning purposes. The results of the survey will provide improved management information to help us plan for the future and we will use the data from now on to inform reporting on the condition of SFA.

Of the 44,000 properties in England and Wales, to date we have analysed condition data for over 40,500 properties. The remaining properties will be surveyed between now and April 2010. Consideration is being given to undertaking similar surveys of SFA in Scotland and Northern Ireland, where the properties are maintained under Regional Prime Contracts. A survey of the overseas housing estate is already in progress.

The survey was visual and carried out by professionally qualified surveyors. Over 300 items of data were collected for each property and the improved information resulting has led to changes in the numbers of properties in each of the four standards for condition (standard 1 being the highest and standard 4 the lowest).

Previously reported figures reflected the results of a condition survey undertaken in 1996. The more detailed information collected in the present survey has changed the balance between standard 1 and 2 for condition. Overall, around 90 per cent. of SFA in England and Wales falls within these two standards but 32 per cent. are now assessed at standard 1 and 57 per cent. as being at standard 2, broadly reversing the previous position. Standard 2 properties are considered to be of a high standard, and both those and standard 1 properties have been assessed by the NAO as meeting or exceeding the Government's decent homes standard.

The condition of each property is assessed against eight groupings of items (for example relating to the building fabric, or kitchen). Each grouping receives its own Standard for Condition and the lowest of these decides the overall standard of the property. Hence a property could be assessed as standard 2 (rather than 1) if seven of its groupings are at standard 1 but one is at standard 2.

The number of houses falling into standard 4 has increased, though remains fewer than 450. Service families are no longer required to live in such properties, although some choose to do so. From 2012 no families will have to live in properties at either of the two lowest Standards for Condition. We remain committed to housing our personnel in high quality accommodation and this survey will help us achieve that objective.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

EU Competitiveness Council

The Minister of State, Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (Mr. David Lammy): My right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Science and Innovation, Lord Drayson, has made the following written statement:

"The following statement provides information on the Competitiveness Council that took place in Brussels on 5 and 6 March. The research session of the Council was held on 6 March and was chaired by Ondrej Liska, Czech Minister of Education, Youth and Sports. The UK was represented by the Deputy Permanent Representative to the European Union.

Research Ministers agreed the importance of maintaining the drive to increase investment in R&D during the current economic crisis. The UK argued that R&D investment needed to contribute to creating the low carbon, highly skilled, and digital economy Europe needed. The Council agreed that there was a need to strengthen the "knowledge triangle"—the links between education, research and innovation—to ensure investments in R&D made the maximum contribution possible to economic recovery.

The Council discussed *large-scale research facilities* and their role in facilitating economic development. Council conclusions are expected on this at the May Competitiveness Council. During

the debate on the location of research facilities, the UK argued that decisions should be made on the basis of science—where the facility would best contribute to excellent research, and that these infrastructures were important in promoting the mobility of researchers across Europe. The Council also took note of a presentation from the chair of the European Strategic Forum for Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) on ESFRI's 2009 priority list of large-scale research facilities in Europe.

Over lunch, Ministers discussed the Commission's proposal for a *new legal status for European research infrastructures providing VAT and excise duty exemptions*. On the basis of my letter to the Czech presidency, the Commission has been tasked with bringing the issue to the VAT Committee quickly for a decision on the proposed VAT exemptions. The Committee's decision would need to be agreed by ECOFIN Ministers. The UK noted that whilst its initial view was that these research infrastructures did meet the criteria in the VAT directive to be exempt from VAT, an acceptable solution on this could only be found in the VAT legislation or its implementing guidelines. The UK also stressed that it could not agree to substantive VAT wording in the research infrastructure regulation itself. Ministers also discussed how to facilitate a decision on the location of the *European Spallation Source* (ESS). Member states with an interest in ESS would discuss this further with the view for a decision to be taken before summer 2009.

Under any other business, the Council took note of an update from the Commission on the request from *Russia* to sign an association agreement by paying to allow its researchers to compete for funds under the EC seventh framework programme. Member states had flagged up a number of questions on this issue which the Commission was currently considering. The Council also took note of the progress made on negotiating a draft decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on a *European Metrology Research Programme* (EMRP) article 169 initiative; first reading agreement with the European Parliament is expected to be reached within the current legislative term. The Commission also introduced a new communication setting out the value of *ICT facilities* for science. The presidency informed the Council that conclusions on the evaluation of R&D activities including a recent evaluation of the sixth Framework Programme were being developed. A progress report on the seventh framework programme is also expected".

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Gaza

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Douglas Alexander): On 1 March I visited Gaza to see first hand the effect that the recent conflict has had on ordinary people. During my visit I pledged £30 million for the first phase of reconstruction in Gaza, known as "early recovery". This will help restore basic services, and rebuild damaged and destroyed homes, schools and hospitals. The pledge includes a new £20 million provision and £10 million from the support announced in January, bringing the UK response to the recent conflict in Gaza to nearly £50 million.

The Foreign Secretary reiterated this pledge on 2 March at the Sharm el-Sheikh conference on Gazan reconstruction, and spoke of the need for a comprehensive peace between Israel and her neighbours. He made it clear that the Palestinian people need a single Government across the occupied Palestinian territories. Participants at the conference welcomed the Palestinian national early recovery and reconstruction plan presented at the conference, and confirmed it would form the basis for their support to Gaza. They said they would channel their assistance through existing international and regional mechanisms.

Access for much-needed materials will be critical for early recovery and reconstruction to take place. Following my visit to Gaza, I met with Isaac Herzog, the Israeli Minister responsible for co-ordinating aid to Gaza, and pressed for improved access and for a relaxation of restrictions on the type of goods that are allowed across the border. At the Sharm conference the following day, there was broad support for full opening of the crossings to Gaza to allow reconstruction to take place. In his speech, the Foreign Secretary endorsed principles for humanitarian access drawn up by the UN and other humanitarian agencies.

The current focus on humanitarian aid and early recovery does not diminish the need for full reconstruction. The World Bank, EC and UN will take the lead on a full needs assessment, working closely with the Palestinian Authority. Reviving the Gaza economy is also critical to the long-term recovery of Gaza. Jobs need to be created, large-scale public infrastructure needs to be repaired, and civil administration rebuilt.

JUSTICE

Bailiff and Enforcement Law

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): Today, I am announcing measures to strengthen regulation of the enforcement industry and clarify the rights, responsibilities and legal limits of debtors, creditors and bailiffs.

The Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act received Royal Assent in July 2007. It goes a long way to codify over 800 years of bailiff and enforcement law, following 10 years of assessment, debate and consultation. Last year my right hon. Friend Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor asked for a reassessment to ensure that the enforcement provisions in the Act remain appropriate. Following a comprehensive review, I can confirm that the Government will not extend bailiffs' powers of entry and the use of force by enforcement agents. In addition, the Government will not implement part 4 of the 2007 Act which would have made changes in the areas of:

attachment of earnings fixed tables;

attachment of earnings tracing;

charging order reforms; and

information requests and orders.

We will, however, be offering help and support for people who need it now. We will be implementing the following measures in advance of full independent regulation:

an online certificated bailiff register allowing debtors to check bailiffs' certification status;

an extension to the certification process to ensure that all bailiffs provide a Criminal Records Bureau check with their application; and

minimum training requirements and competences for inclusion in the certification process.

These measures will contribute to the development of the more permanent solution of full independent regulation in 2012.

Part 3 of the 2007 Act makes a number of important reforms to bailiff law which will remove archaic and complex legislation. The majority of these reforms received cross-party support during its passage. The changes will

help debtors, creditors, bailiffs and the police understand what their rights and responsibilities are when debts are enforced. Provisions under the Act will clarify the existing law and introduce a comprehensive code governing, among other things:

when and how a bailiff can enter somebody's premises;

what goods they can and cannot seize and sell; and

what fees they can charge.

This will provide clarity for debtors and certainty for creditors and be underpinned by independent regulation of the enforcement industry. Regulation will not only improve the efficiency and effectiveness of both civil and criminal enforcement but it will also offer protection to vulnerable debtors, who genuinely cannot pay, and reduce the scope for abuse of the system. A formalised structure to regulate the industry would raise standards of professionalism within the industry and give the public greater confidence in it.

We will produce a consultation paper which will set out the Government's intentions for a package of measures which will address concerns that have been raised about the behaviour of bailiffs, the fees charged and proposals for the regulation of the bailiff industry. It will also set out draft regulations on seizure of goods, and allow for detailed consideration of a standardised fee structure. The intention is to commence this consultation exercise with a view to implementing the changes in April 2012.

This will allow business, local authorities, courts, creditors, the enforcement industry and the advice sector a substantial period of time to adequately prepare for and introduce the change.

Office for Judicial Complaints (Annual Report 2007-08)

The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Jack Straw): With the concurrence of the Lord Chief Justice, I have today published the annual report of the Office for Judicial Complaints (OJC). The OJC provides support to the Lord Chief Justice and myself in our joint responsibility for the system of judicial complaints and discipline.

I welcome the publication of this report, the second produced by the OJC, which publishes details of the work undertaken by the office over the last year and the complaints which it has dealt with.

The OJC's 2006-07 report marked the first occasion on which comprehensive details of complaints received about Judicial Office Holders had been made available to the public in this manner. I am pleased to note that the OJC continues to build on this foundation and believe that this report highlights the continued progress made by the OJC in delivering a high quality, effective and transparent service to all of its customers.

The Lord Chief Justice and I are keen to ensure that the disciplinary process for judicial office holders is both transparent and accountable. To that end, we have agreed that, from today, where a judicial office holder has been removed from office following disciplinary procedures, there should now be a presumption that both the identity of that judicial office holder, and the reason for their removal, should be made public. While mindful of this presumption, we will nonetheless continue to make decisions about disclosure on a case-by-case basis.

Where a judicial office holder has been subject to a lesser sanction than removal this presumption does not apply. However, we will continue to give consideration to the disclosure of relevant information in cases that have attracted a high degree of interest from the public and media.

Copies of the report are available in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. Copies of the report are also available on the Internet at: http://www.judicialcomplaints.gov.uk/publications/publications.htm.

TRANSPORT

UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 Forecasts, 2009: Errata

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr. Geoffrey Hoon): The Department for Transport is today publishing an errata to "UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 forecasts 2009", which was published in January. Copies of the errata have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. This follows its identification of an input error to the 2009 GDP growth rate for the "PBR Nov [illegible] GDP forecast" sensitivity test. The 2009 GDP growth rate was entered as +1%, when it should have been -1%. GDP growth rates for later years, the central case forecasts and other sensitivity tests are unaffected.

This sensitivity test is relevant to those who are preparing evidence for the Stansted G2 public inquiry. The Department for Transport is, therefore, taking steps to alert participants to the minor corrections so they can use them in forming their evidence.

The air passenger demand and CO_2 forecasts, and net benefits of a third runway at Heathrow and a second runway at Stansted, have been re-estimated for this sensitivity test with this input error corrected.

Table 4.4 (page 96) of "UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 forecasts 2009" presents the net benefits of a second runway at Stansted and a third runway at Heathrow under a range of sensitivity tests.

The net benefit of a second runway, with associated terminal capacity, at Stansted in the central case was £10.0 billion. Under the "PBR Nov 2008 GDP forecasts" sensitivity test, the net benefit was £8.7 billion. With the input error corrected the net benefit under this sensitivity test falls to £8.6 billion. This revised estimate is:

i. well within the range of net benefits reported in table 4.4 (page 96) of "UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 forecasts 2009" (£4.3 billion - £11.3 billion).

The net benefit of a third runway and sixth terminal at Heathrow, in the central case, was £5.5 billion. In the "PBR Nov 2008 GDP forecasts" sensitivity test, the net benefit was £5.4 billion. With the input error corrected the net benefit under this sensitivity test falls to £5.1 billion. This revised estimate is:

i. well within the range of net benefits reported in table 4.4 (page 96) of "UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 forecasts 2009" and in table 10 (page 35) of "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport—Impact Assessment" (£0.9 billion - £9.7 billion); and,

ii. at the upper end of the range of net benefits reported in annex B of "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport—Consultation Document" (£4.4 billion—£5.2 billion).

This shows that correcting this error does not materially affect the conclusions that follow from the results presented in "UK Air Passenger Demand and CO_2 forecasts 2009". I can also confirm that the error does not materially affect the evidence presented in the Heathrow impact assessment (including that presented for the tests limiting Heathrow runway capacity). Therefore, and as I have already reached a decision over Heathrow, the Department for Transport is not issuing an errata to the Heathrow impact assessment.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 18 March 2009

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Merger Fees

The Minister for Trade, Development and Consumer Affairs (Mr. Gareth Thomas): In 2006, the then DTI announced that it was increasing the level of the fees charged to merging parties in order to recover the costs incurred by the competition authorities in undertaking their statutory merger control functions. It was decided that the increase would be introduced in two stages with an initial increase coming into effect in April 2006 and a further stage coming into effect in April 2009.

I have decided to postpone introducing that second stage of the planned increase in merger fees. Having reviewed what has happened in the period since the first stage of the increase came into effect, it is clear that there has been a change in circumstances which suggests the planned increase would not, in fact, generate sufficient funds to recover the full cost of operating the merger control regime.

We therefore propose to re-examine the costs involved in operating that regime and to consult on a suitably revised fee structure as soon as possible with the aim of making an appropriate order to introduce revised merger fees at the earliest opportunity.

Background

There are currently three merger fee bands set at £15,000, £30,000 and £45,000, respectively. The lower fee band applies to mergers where the UK turnover of the enterprise being acquired is £20 million or less; the middle fee is applicable where the UK turnover of the enterprise being acquired is more than £20 million but less than £70 million; and the highest fee is applicable where the UK turnover of the enterprise being acquired exceeds £70 million.

The increase that had been planned for implementation in April 2009 would have increased fee levels to £30,000, £60,000 and £90,000, respectively.

Based on an assessment of the number of mergers taking place during the two to three year period prior to 2006, it appeared likely that this fee structure would generate an amount approximately equivalent to the average annual expenditure of the Office of Fair Trading and Competition Commission in undertaking their merger control functions. We consider it appropriate that those costs should be met by the companies involved in carrying out mergers rather than by the taxpayer.

Having reviewed what has happened in the period since 2006, it is clear there has been a considerable reduction in the total number of mergers being considered by the competition authorities—while the annual costs of operating the merger control regime have remained largely unchanged as fixed costs represent a substantial proportion of the total costs. The result is that the proposed increase in fees is likely to generate only about two thirds of the total costs allocated to merger control activity—a gap of some £3 million to £4 million. In the light of this, we propose work with the competition authorities to examine the prospects for reducing costs; to re-examine the cost base used as the basis for setting the fees and then to develop a revised fee structure that provides for full cost recovery in future based on that cost base.

TREASURY

Provisional Debt Management Report 2009-10

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ian Pearson): The "Provisional Debt Management Report 2009-10" is being published today as required by the "Code for Fiscal Stability". Copies are available in the Library of the House. The final "Debt and Reserves Management Report 2009-10" will be published alongside the Budget in the usual way.

DEFENCE

Surface Ship Support (SSS) Programme

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. John Hutton): Hon. Members will wish to be aware of an update to the progress being made with the alternative contracting arrangements for surface warship maintenance and repair. These arrangements were signalled in December 2005 as part of the wider defence industrial strategy and today's announcement is an important step towards ensuring that the capability requirements of the Royal Navy continue to be met now and in the future.

Surface warship upkeep contracts were awarded following competition while operational (or fleet) time support was delivered through partnering arrangements under the warship support modernisation initiative. While these arrangements have delivered clear value for money benefits to the Ministry of Defence (MOD), force level reductions coupled with over capacity in the surface ship repair market prompted a review. The MOD, in consultation with industry, undertook a study (the surface ship support study) to identify the optimum approach for the future maintenance and repair of surface warships (aircraft carriers, major amphibious vessels, destroyers, frigates and mine warfare vessels) that would deliver the most efficient, effective and sustainable support policy and offer best value for money for defence as well as to taxpayers.

In 2005, the study concluded that the option best able to meet the needs of both the Department and industry would be the formation of a surface warship support alliance, which would include current providers of surface warship upkeep and fleet time support. To take this forward, the MOD entered into detailed dialogue with industry to explore the feasibility of delivering such

support through an alliance. The written ministerial statements made on 14 February 2006, *Official Report*, columns 72-73WS, announced this exploratory phase. During this time competition policy would be suspended to enable the alliance concept to be developed and tested progressively in a controlled manner. An order was made by my right hon. Friend the then Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (now Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform), the Member for Kingston upon Hull, West and Hessle (Alan Johnson), excluding the maintenance and repair of surface warships from the UK Competition Act 1998. These arrangements were subsequently extended in 2008, and announced in a written ministerial statement on 25 March, *Official Report*, columns 3-4WS.

Over the past 12 months, good progress has continued to be made in this crucial warship support area. Working closely with the two dockyard companies—Babcock and BVT Surface Fleet Ltd—MOD has confirmed that the alliance option is the optimum solution for providing effective, affordable and sustainable support to Royal Navy surface warships. As a result, we have signed a non-legally binding accord with the two companies that set out the principles by which the alliance will operate. The alliance, subject to successful completion of the concept phase and further approvals as well as consultation with the trades unions, is expected to be fully implemented by 2011.

Once the alliance has initially stood up, expected to be later this year, the SSS programme will be implemented in phases. It will commence with a proof of concept phase to allow demonstration of success against agreed criteria as a pre-requisite for moving to the subsequent phases. This approach will minimise risk to MOD, Babcock and BVT Surface Fleet Ltd, and will allow the necessary assurance and scrutiny to take place as the programme develops, experience grows and benefits are realised. For that reason, the regulatory impact assessment (RIA) that supports the exclusion of surface warship support work on public policy grounds from the UK Competition Act has been extended for a period of up to 24 months.

The new arrangements help to promote a sustainable industrial base that retains key operational support and system upgrade capabilities within the UK, and are therefore vital to our ability to maintain and support the Royal Navy. We will continue to work closely with industry in a spirit of transparency and trust to ensure more effective joint planning for the longer-term and that the alliance delivers benefits to the Royal Navy, industry and British taxpayers.

The SSS programme remains a key tenet of the overall maritime change programme and it will play an important part in meeting the needs of the Royal Navy in the future.

Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. John Hutton): We have decided to procure three instrumented test aircraft and associated support equipment to enable UK participation in the joint Initial Operational Test And Evaluation (IOT&E) of the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Air System alongside the US Services, and to continue our contributions to the production sustainment and follow-on development (PSFD) memorandum of understanding (MOU).

This decision will allow the UK to fulfil our plans to participate fully in the IOT & E programme alongside the USA and represents the next crucial stage in the UK's incremental plan to introduce JSF into service and fully to understand the aircraft through-life. In particular it will enable us to confirm that we will fully meet the UK's operational sovereignty requirements for JSF and also to fulfil our obligations for UK release to service, proving the general airworthiness of the aircraft and its ability to operate safely and effectively, in combat conditions.

Acquisition of JSF will provide the UK with an unrivalled "fifth-generation" tactical air system, designed with stealthy characteristics and advanced sensors, which will afford the UK a "step change" in capability. Through conducting the IOT & E programme jointly with our US partners, who have many years of experience in operating this type of capability and the technologies inherent within it, we will gain a unique opportunity to optimise our use of this new combat system. This decision is fully coherent with our earlier decision to procure the UK's new aircraft carriers and will enable us to move forward effectively in developing our carrier strike capability.

With approximately 100 UK companies currently in the supply chain, there is significant UK industrial interest in the JSF programme ranging from major UK JSF industrial partners such as BAE systems and Rolls-Royce to providers of key sub-systems such as Martin Baker and GE Aviation, and down to lower tier suppliers of composite materials. The potential UK return on investment is substantial. Over the lifetime of the JSF programme, depending on aircraft costs and numbers ordered, overall expenditure with UK industry is likely to outweigh by far the UK MOD's investment in the programme.

JUSTICE

Bernard Lodge Inquiry

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr. Shahid Malik): Barbara Stow, a former Assistant Prisons and Probation Ombudsman, was appointed to Chair an investigation into the death in custody of Bernard Lodge, who died in HMP Manchester on 28 August 1998. Public hearings were held in September and October 2008.

On 23 February 2009, I agreed to convert the Bernard Lodge investigation to an inquiry held under the Inquiries Act 2005, following representations from the Chair. The investigation was so converted in accordance with section 15 of the Inquiries Act 2005. Barbara Stow shall remain Chair and no other members are to be appointed to the inquiry panel. The terms of reference of the inquiry, as detailed in Annex 1 of the Chair's procedures dated 10 January 2008, shall remain the same. The terms of reference can be found at :

http://www.preventingcustodydeaths.org.uk/default/article_two_investigations/fpdc-bernard_lodge.htm

PRIME MINISTER

Detainees

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): Our security and intelligence services and armed forces do an outstanding job. They take significant personal risks to make Britain more secure and operate across the world in circumstances they do not control. I have seen for myself their success in preventing terrorist attacks. We are all safer today because of the work they do with integrity and bravery. In the last months, the involvement of the security services and armed forces in detention activities has been under intense scrutiny while they have been unable to reply.

Britain condemns without reservation the use of torture for any purpose. Torture has no place in a modern democratic society. We will not condone it. Nor will we ever ask others to do it on our behalf.

It is to protect the reputation of our security and intelligence services and to reassure ourselves that everything has been done to ensure that our practices are in line with United Kingdom and international law that we will do four things:

we will publish our guidance to intelligence officers and service personnel about the standards that we apply during the detention and interviewing of detainees overseas once it has been consolidated and reviewed by the Intelligence and Security Committee. It is right that Parliament and the public should know what those involved in interviewing detainees can and cannot do. This will put beyond doubt the terms under which our agencies and service personnel operate. Once published, copies will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses;

we will invite the Sir Peter Gibson who is the former Lord Justice of Appeal and current Intelligence Services Commissioner to monitor compliance with the guidance and report to the Prime Minister annually;

in order to ensure that our systems are robust and to be certain that any lessons have been understood, I have asked the Intelligence and Security Committee to consider any new developments and relevant information, since its 2005 report on detention (cm 6469) and its 2007 report on rendition (cm 7171), building on the follow-up work that they have already undertaken;

wherever allegations of wrongdoing are made, they are taken seriously. Some detainees have already put their allegations before the civil courts, where they can and should be tested. If any cases of potential criminal wrongdoing come to light, the Government will refer them to the Attorney-General to consider whether there is a basis for inviting the police to conduct a criminal investigation. Any decisions on prosecutions will be reached only after such an investigation.

We are fortunate to have the best security and intelligence services and armed forces in the world. They are highly effective, widely respected and operate unselfishly on our behalf. It is vital that we allow them to act to protect our country. But we must do so in a way that is consistent with our unequivocal commitment to human rights. I am confident that this is the case.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Criminal Proceedings for Fraud

The Solicitor-General (Vera Baird): My right hon. Friend the Attorney-General has made the following Written Ministerial Statement:

Last year the Government published two consultation papers on measures to improve the effectiveness of fraud prosecutions. The first consultation paper, in relation to a proposed framework for plea negotiation between defence and prosecution in fraud cases, was published in April. The second, concerning proposals to strengthen the powers of the Crown Court to deal with fraud, was published in July.

The Government are today publishing a paper summarising the responses received in both these consultation exercises, and setting out how we will take these proposals forward. The measures form part of the "National Fraud Strategy" which is being published in full tomorrow.

In general the responses that we received to the two consultations were positive, with many respondents agreeing in principle with the measures proposed. Many helpful suggestions were received as to their practical implementation.

In relation to the plea negotiation framework, I am now issuing Attorney-General's guidelines to prosecutors to bring this into effect shortly. The guidelines set out a clear and transparent procedure for prosecutors to engage in discussions with defence legal representatives at an early stage in a fraud case with a view to narrowing the factual issues and, where possible, agreeing what charges the defendant will plead guilty to. This procedure is designed to help complex cases progress through the criminal justice system in a quicker and more efficient fashion, while protecting the interests of the public and victims of fraud, and respecting the rights of defendants.

In relation to the extended sentencing powers for the Crown Court, the Government intend to bring forward legislation extending the range of fraud victims who will be eligible for compensation, and strengthening the enforcement measures available to the courts to see that compensation orders are paid. Legislation is also planned to allow the Crown Court to bar convicted fraudsters from practising in certain key professions, and to wind up companies that have been used as vehicles for fraud. These measures should reduce the need for duplicated criminal, civil and regulatory proceedings, and also strengthen confidence in the ability of the courts to protect the public from fraud and compensate victims. This legislation will be introduced as soon as the Parliamentary programme allows.

The National Fraud Strategy, being published tomorrow, meets a key recommendation of the 2006 Fraud Review. Produced and co-ordinated by the National Fraud Strategic Authority, it will be implemented with partners across the business, public and voluntary sectors.

Copies of the paper "The Introduction of a Plea Negotiation Framework for Fraud Cases in England and Wales and Extending the Powers of the Crown Court to Prevent Fraud and Compensate Victims: Summary of Responses to Consultation Papers" have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses. Copies of the "National Fraud Strategy" will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses tomorrow.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 19 March 2009

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Employment Agency Standards

The Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs (Mr. Pat McFadden): I am today launching a consultation on proposed amendments to the Conduct of Employment Agencies and Employment Businesses Regulations 2003. These regulations govern the conduct of the private recruitment industry and set minimum standards for employment agencies and employment businesses operating from premises in Great Britain.

This exercise is not directly related to the implementation of the EU agency workers directive, on which a separate consultation will be launched in due course.

The consultation I am launching today focuses on a range of issues. First, we want to take practical steps to tackle the bad practice of some rogue agencies in the entertainment and modelling sector where, despite cooling-off measures introduced last year in respect of upfront fees, we know that abuse continues.

Secondly, we want to introduce greater clarity and lines of responsibility between employment agencies and businesses that use them, particularly in respect of suitability checks for workers introduced for permanent recruitment. We think this offers potential to reduce regulatory and administrative burdens on the recruitment industry sector without compromising appropriate protections for workers, employers and vulnerable groups.

Thirdly, this consultation also offers the opportunity for us to restore postgraduate medical deaneries, who are responsible for the recruitment and training programme of junior doctors and junior dentists to NHS employers, to their previous position as a body exempt from employment agency legislation.

We also invite views on a number of additional areas that we have identified in the conduct regulations that we think offer scope for reducing administrative burdens on employment agencies and businesses, or where we consider measures may be necessary to offer greater protection for vulnerable agency workers.

These proposals would, overall, be burden-reducing for the private recruitment industry, but also address areas of continuing concern regarding rogue operators. They demonstrate the Government's commitment both to help business through difficult times and to ensure effective protection for the vulnerable.

The consultation will close on 11 June and will be followed by a Government response.

TREASURY

Anti-avoidance Measure (Interest Relief)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): Avoidance schemes have been notified to Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) that exploit provisions under which individuals may claim relief for interest payments on loans used to invest in partnerships or small companies. Legislation will be introduced in the forthcoming Finance Bill to stop individuals exploiting these provisions for the purposes of tax avoidance. In future, interest will not be eligible for tax relief if it is paid as part of arrangements where the deductibility of the interest means that the investor is guaranteed to make a profit.

The legislation, which will be effective in relation to interest paid on or after today, will not catch genuine commercial investments in business where there is uncertainty as to the return that will be produced from the investment.

A copy of the draft legislation together with draft explanatory notes will be published shortly on HMRC's website.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Migration

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Hazel Blears): Today, I am publishing "Managing the Impacts of Migration: Improvements and Innovations". It sets out the progress made across Government against the commitments made in June 2008 to support local areas managing the impacts of migration on their communities. The document also outlines new Government support on migration issues and considers how the impact of migration on local communities and the Government's response to it has changed in the context of the economic downturn.

The document sets out our continued commitment to controlling migration at a national level, and to ensuring that UK workers have the skills needed to fill vacancies and the opportunity to apply for these vacancies where they arise. Our aim is to ensure that local communities are as resilient as possible to changes brought about by migration. This update outlines the support we are giving to local areas, including:

Announcing a migration impacts fund paid for by increases to migrant fees, providing £35 million for 2009-10 and—subject to a review in the autumn of the economic position and the migrant fees being received—a similar amount in 2010-11. This fulfils the commitment made in the Home Office's February 2008 consultation on the path to citizenship to set up a fund to manage the transitional impacts of migration. The fund will be available to local services and will be allocated through Government offices and local strategic partnerships.

Announcing our intention to consult on setting up a new Migration Impacts Committee of independent advisers to build on the work of the migration impacts forum.

The cross Government programme led by the Office for National Statistics to improve the population and migration statistics to deliver a package of improvements to be implemented in time

to feed into key statistics published in 2010 and available to inform the next three year local government finance settlement. The package announced includes technical improvements to the migration statistics, including the use of administrative sources, to produce a more robust local distribution of international migration, and better internal migration estimates.

Setting out a programme of research into what drives migration to the UK, and the geographical pattern and timescales of this migration, together with the preliminary findings of research which supports evidence from other sources that migration to the UK is falling.

Highlighting that we will shortly be issuing a consultation on reviewing the criteria for selective licensing of all privately rented property in designated areas to ensure local authorities have the tools they need to deal with problem properties.

The document has been placed in the Library of the House and can be accessed via the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/communities/racecohesionfaith/asylumandimmigration

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Consular Fees Order 2009

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Gillian Merron): The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has recently undertaken a review of the fees charged for visa and consular services, both in the UK and Overseas. On 18 March 2009 Her Majesty in Council approved the Consular Fees Order 2009. This revokes and replaces the Consular Fees Order 2008. The Government are today announcing changes to the consular fees to be charged under this order with effect from 9 April 2009.

Fees for passport applications made in the United Kingdom remain at current levels whereas the fees for passport applications made abroad including applications for temporary and emergency passports have increased. A new emergency travel document is also being introduced during 2009-10 and is priced at £89. This is a more secure and internationally acceptable document than the emergency and temporary passports currently used and is correspondingly more expensive. Most travel insurance policies permit recovery of expenditure incurred in relation to the loss of a passport and all British nationals should ensure their policy includes this form of cover.

The fees for both standard and premium legalisation services have increased in line with inflation, and a new fee of £37 is to be introduced for legalisation services requested overseas, where the processing is carried out in whole or in part in the United Kingdom. A new fee for translating passport details into Arabic as part of the entry requirements for Libya is being introduced.

Fees for receiving applications for entry clearance to Commonwealth countries, British overseas territories and Crown dependencies continue to be charged in the order and have increased since last year. The fees for entry clearance for visitors to the Crown dependencies have been amended to reflect the longer periods for which such entry clearances can now be obtained.

Other consular fees, representing a range of services performed at posts abroad, are also set to increase.

It is right that those who benefit from consular services should meet the cost of them, rather than the UK taxpayer. The new fees represent the full economic cost of what we do, and will ensure that British missions continue to provide a high standard of service to consular customers.

The new fees are included in the attached table.

Part I

Legalisation

Fee			£
1.		Attesting or legalising a signature or seal except where—	
	(a)	the signature or seal is on a certificate or survey of foreign passenger ships running to or from the United Kingdom, or	
	(b)	the signature or seal is on a document required for the deposit or withdrawal of money in or from any British Post Office or other Government Savings Bank, or	
	(c)	the signature or seal is in connection with stocks or bonds on the registers of the Post Office, with Savings Bank annuities or with annuities granted direct by the National Debt Commissioners—	
	(i)	Standard service, unless fee 1 (ii) applies (in addition to direct costs if any)	28.00
	(ii)	Standard service where the request for the service is made outside of the United Kingdom but processing is carried out in whole or in part within the United Kingdom (in addition to direct costs if any)	37.00
	(iii)	Premium service (in addition to direct costs if any)	69.00
2.		Obtaining a legalisation or other certification from another authority upon any document (in addition to direct costs if any)	45.00

Part II

Notarial and Related Matters

Fee			£
3.		Preparing any certificate, declaration, legitimation or document not listed elsewhere in this Schedule—	
	(a)	in standard form, for every copy	36.00
	(b)	not in standard form, for every 100 words—	
		(i) in English	45.00
		(ii) in any other language	71.00
4.		Preparing or signing, or both, a declaration of existence—	17.00
		Except in connection with pay or pensions payable by a Department of Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, or the Government of any other Commonwealth country	
5.		Administering an oath or attesting the signature on a declaration or affirmation except where—	53.00
	(a)	the oath, declaration or affirmation is made under the Merchant Shipping Act 1995 or in connection with the loss of a passport	
	(b)	fee 16, 17, 18, 29, 30, 31, 34, 40, 46, or 47 is to be taken	
6.		Supplying witnesses, for each witness	21.00

Part II

Notarial and Related Matters

Fee		£
7.	Initialling alterations in any document not prepared by the consular officer or marking exhibits, for each initialling or marking	11.00
8.	Making or verifying (including certifying when necessary) a copy of a document—	
	(a) in typescript, for each page	36.00
	(b) reproduced by electronic means outside the consular premises, for each page	36.00
	(c) reproduced by electronic means within the consular premises, for each page (with a minimum charge of £25)	5.00
9.	Uniting documents and sealing the fastening (except where fee 47 is applicable)	21.00
10.	Affixing a photograph to a document not prepared by the consular officer, and if necessary, certifying it (except where fee 16,17, or 18 is applicable)	21.00
11.	Supplying certified copies of documents which form part of the records of a court which is, or was formerly, established under the Foreign Jurisdiction Acts 1890 and 1913, for each page	63.00
12.	Making or verifying (including certifying when necessary) a written translation, for every 100 words or characters written in the foreign language (except where fee 33, 34 or 49 is to be taken)—	
	(a) from or into Amharic, Chinese, Japanese, or Korean (three Japanese *Kana* count as one character when used independently)	71.00
	(b) from or into any other language	45.00
13.	Translating and interpreting viva voce except when performing official duties, for every 15 minutes	32.00

Part III

Passport Applications Made to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Fee		£
14.	Administering an application made abroad, including applications for replacing an expired passport, replacing a passport of restricted validity with a new passport of full validity, issuing a new passport with amended personal details and replacing a lost or stolen passport and, if the application is successful, providing a 32 page passport—	
	(a) where the applicant is aged 16 years or over (in addition to direct costs if any)	124.00
	(b) where the applicant is under 16 years old (for a passport valid for 5 years) (in addition to direct costs if any)	79.00
15.	Administering an application made abroad, including applications for replacing an expired passport, replacing a passport of restricted validity with a new passport of full validity, issuing a new passport with amended personal details and replacing a lost or stolen passport and, if the application is successful, providing a 48 page passport (in addition to direct costs if any)	150.00
16.	Administering an application made abroad and, if the application is successful, providing an Emergency Passport	69.00
17.	Administering an application made abroad and, if the application is successful, providing a Temporary Passport valid for not more than one year	89.00

Part III

Passport Applications Made to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Fee		£
18.	Administering an application made abroad and, if the application is successful providing an Emergency Travel Document	89.00

Part IV

Passport Applications Made in the United Kingdom

Fee		£
19.	Administering an application made in the United Kingdom, including applications for replacing an expired passport, replacing a passport of restricted validity with a new passport of full validity, issuing a new passport with amended personal details and replacing a lost or stolen passport and, if the application is successful, issuing a 32 page passport—	
	(a) for applications made by post—	
	(i) where the applicant is aged 16 years and over	72.00
	(ii) where the applicant is under 16 years old (for a passport valid for 5 years)	46.00
	(b) for applications made in person—	
	(i) where the applicant is aged 16 years or over using the fast-track service	97.00
	(ii) where the applicant is under 16 years old (for a passport valid for 5 years) using the fast-track service	81.00
	(iii) where the applicant is aged 16 years or over using the fast-track collect service	109.00
	(iv) where the applicant is under 16 years old (for a passport valid for 5 years) using the fast-track collect service	91.00
	(v) where the applicant is aged 16 years or over using the premium service	114.00
	(vi) where the applicant is under 16 years old (for a passport valid for 5 years) using the premium service	94.00
20.	Administering an application made in the United Kingdom, including applications for replacing an expired passport, replacing a passport of restricted validity with a new passport of full validity, issuing a new passport with amended personal details and replacing a lost and stolen passport and, if the application is successful, issuing a 48 page passport—	
	(a) for applications made by post	85.00
	(b) for applications made in person—	
	(i) using the fast-track service	105.00
	(ii) using the fast-track collect service	109.00
	(iii) using the premium service	123.00
21.	Administering an application made in the United Kingdom and, if the application is successful, issuing a collective passport—	
	(a) for applications made by post	39.00
	(b) for applications made in person	54.00

Part V

Other Documents Relating to Travel or Entry into the UK, Commonwealth, Overseas Territories, Crown Dependencies and Libya

Fee		£
22.	Preparing or forwarding, or both, any letter, certificate, declaration or other document which may be required by an authority in any country or territory in connection with an application for or the issue or renewal of an entry clearance (for a country or territory for which the consular officer does not himself have authority to issue entry clearance), a residence permit or identity card or forwarding any other certificate or document (except a Home Office travel document and applications for registration and naturalisation)	63.00
23.	Renewing a Travel Certificate, a certificate of identity or other travel document on behalf of a Commonwealth country or of a dependency of a Commonwealth country (except where fee 25 is to be taken)	63.00
24.	Renewing a Travel Certificate, a certificate of identity or other travel document on behalf of a Crown Dependency or a British overseas territory (except where fee 25 is to be taken)	63.00
25.	Revalidating or renewing a Seaman's Certificate of Nationality and Identity or a Seaman's Identity Book (in addition to fee 22 where applicable)	63.00
26.	Providing a passport stamp setting out the format of an Arabic transcript of the passport's details page, as required by the Libyan authorities for entry into Libya	11.00
27.	Receiving an application for entry clearance to a Commonwealth country or British overseas territory	47.00
28.	Receiving, outside the United Kingdom, an application for—	
	(a) entry clearance to the Crown Dependencies—	
	(i) as a visitor, in each case for single, double and multiple entries valid—	
	(aa) for up to six months from the date of issue	67.00
	(bb) for between six months and up to two years from the date of issue	215.00
	(cc) for between two years and up to five years from the date of issue	400.00
	(dd) for between five years and up to ten years from the date of issue	500.00
	(ii) for settlement	585.00
	(iii) as a student	145.00
	(iv) outside the Immigration Rules on an application by entertainers in accordance with Chapter 17 Section 3 of the Home Office Immigration Directorate's Instructions	67.00
	(v) outside the Immigration Rules on an application by sportsmen and women in accordance with Chapter 17 Section 8 of the Home Office Immigration Directorate's Instructions	67.00
	(vi) outside the Immigration Rules on an application by voluntary workers in accordance with Chapter 17 Section 9 of the Home Office Immigration Directorate's Instructions	125.00
	(vii) For any purpose other than those listed sub-paragraphs (i), (ii), (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) listed above	215.00
	(b) a certificate of entitlement to the right of abode in the Crown Dependencies	215.00

Part VI

Births, Deaths, Marriages and Civil Partnerships

Fee		£
29.	Receiving notice of an intended marriage, civil partnership or overseas relationship, including an application for a Nulla Osta	63.00
30.	Solemnising or attending a marriage under the Foreign Marriage Acts 1892 and 1947; administering oaths to the parties and registering the marriage	134.00
31.	Registering a civil partnership under the Civil Partnership (Registration Abroad and Certificates) Order 2005	134.00
32.	Issuing in English or in the local language a certificate that no impediment to an intended marriage or civil partnership has been shown to exist or issuing a "certificate de coutume" or a Nulla Osta for an intended marriage or intended overseas relationship in accordance with local law	63.00
33.	Forwarding a record of a marriage under the local law to the appropriate Registrar General in accordance with the Foreign Marriage Order 1970, including the provision of any necessary certification	36.00
34.	Forwarding a record of an overseas relationship to the appropriate Registrar General in accordance with the Civil Partnership (Registration Abroad and Certificates) Order 2005, including the provision of any necessary certification	36.00
35.	Administering an application for the registry of a birth or a death (in addition to fee 37 where applicable)	98.00
36.	Making an addition to or correction in the consular register of births, deaths, marriages or civil partnerships at the request of the parties concerned	36.00
37.	Issuing a certified copy of an entry in the consular register of births, deaths, marriages or civil partnerships (in addition to fee 38 or 35 where applicable)	63.00

Part VII

Searches

Fee		£
38.	Making a search in (in addition to fee 3(a) and 37 where applicable)—	
	(a) the consular registers of births, deaths, marriages or civil partnerships where the number or date of entry is not provided	63.00
	(b) the records of the Identity and Passport Service where the request originates in the United Kingdom	15.00
	(c) any other records or archives of Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom	109.00
	(d) naturalisation, registration or renunciation records kept by a consular officer	76.00
39.	Having a search made for, or attempting to obtain copies of, or both, entries in the local registers or records of local authorities responsible for births, marriages or overseas relationships or any other document, irrespective of whether an entry or record or any other document is found or obtained after a period of 18 months (in addition to direct costs exceeding £5.00 if any)	128.00

Part VIII

Nationality and Registration

Fee		£
40.	Administering an oath of British Citizenship under the British Nationality Act 1981 at a citizenship ceremony	80.00
41.	Preparing or forwarding, or both, an application for registration, naturalisation or renunciation to the Home Office	63.00
42.	Preparing or forwarding, or both, any other application requested by any Department of Her Majesty's Government	63.00
43.	Supervising a knowledge of life test for naturalisation under the British Nationality Act 1981 in consular premises	128.00

Part IX

Estates

Fee		£
44.	Administering fully or partly, safeguarding, or arranging the transmission of all or part of the personal effects and other estate of a deceased person or if sold, the proceeds, except for the wages and personal effects of a seaman. Except where the gross current market value is less than £1,000; charge based on the amount of the gross current market value	2% rounded to the nearest £10.00
	However where a local lawyer is employed and consular officer's actions are nominal	81.00

Part X

Attendances

Fee		£
45.	Attending (except in connection with trade and investment enquiries) for each hour or part hour. The time taken will include reasonable travelling time from the consular premises and return or out of office hours to the consular or other premises and return—	
	(a) at the consular premises or elsewhere during office hours except when attending to supervise an examination for two or more persons sitting examinations at the same time when the fee may be apportioned between them	128.00
	(b) at the consular premises or elsewhere outside office hours	128.00
	up to a maximum in any 24 hour period for each consular officer of	922.00

Part XI

Matters Relating to Legal Proceedings

Fee		£
46.	Presiding at the taking of evidence under a commission or order from a Court, including any action by the consular officer as examiner—	
	(a) for up to two hours on the first day	255.00
	(b) for each additional hour or part hour	128.00
47.	Providing evidence of service or attempted service (in addition to fee 45 or 48)	128.00
48.	Providing the services of a consular officer or consular employee—	
	(a) to assist the consular officer in the taking of evidence under a commission or order from a Court, for each such person—	
	for each hour or part hour	128.00
	(b) to affect or endeavour to affect service of a document, for each hour or part hour outside the consular premises—	
	during office hours	128.00
	outside office hours	160.00
49.	Forwarding a request to a local authority for the taking of evidence or the service of a document, where necessary, certifying the accuracy of a translation accompanying the document	128.00

Part XII

Repatriation and Financial Assistance

Fee		£
50.	Arranging the repatriation of a person or members of the same family travelling together	128.00
51.	Arranging, in exceptional circumstances, for currency to be made available against the deposit of funds with Her Majesty's Government by any means (in addition to fee 45 where payable). The applicable fee will depend on the value of the sums being deposited as follows:	
	(a) £0-£50	8.00
	(b) £51-£100	16.00
	(c) £101-£500	32.00
	(d) £501-£1500	74.00
	(e) >£1500	90.00

Part XIII

Shipping, Seamen and Related Matters

Fee		£
52.	Granting or considering whether to grant a provisional certificate of registry, whether the owner is a private individual or body corporate	373.00
53.	Receiving a return of the birth or death of any person on board a ship and endorsing the agreement with the crew accordingly	54.00
54.	Examining or arranging for the examination of provisions or water, payable by the party who proves to be in default (in addition to any cost of a survey)	54.00
55.	Noting a marine protest and furnishing one certified copy if required and for each further copy	45.00
56.	Extending a marine protest, filing the original and furnishing one certified copy if required (in addition to fee 1 and 3 where applicable)—	
	(a) for up to 200 words, excluding the declaratory clause	107.00
	(b) for every subsequent 100 words or less	45.00
57.	Making a request, or issuing or arranging for the issue of a document, in connection with a survey of a ship (in addition to fee 8 where applicable)—	
	(a) for the purposes of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea 1974 (SOLAS) or of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships 1973 as modified by its Protocol of 1978 (MARPOL)	71.00
	(b) for any other purpose	128.00
58.	Issuing a bill of health	45.00
59.	Preparing or signing, or both, any document, whether required by the Merchant Shipping Acts or by the local authorities, relating to the master or the members of the crew of a ship, to their numbers, names or other details, or to their engagement, discharge, desertion or death (except where fee 53 is taken in addition to fee 45, or a death inquiry is held under section 271 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1995)	71.00
60.	Signing and, if required, sealing any documents at the request of the master of the ship (except where this is required under the Merchant Shipping Act 1995, or fee 59 is taken)	71.00
61.	Inspecting—	
	(a) a ship's papers when required to enable a consular officer to do any matter or thing in respect of a ship (except where fee 59 is taken in addition to fee 45)	53.00
	(b) the marking of a ship, irrespective of the number of visits (in addition to fee 45)	53.00

Part XIV

Payments Using Credit Cards

Fee		£
62.	Receiving payments by credit card on behalf of Her Majesty's Government where no other fee is chargeable under this Order.	The applicable fee will be equal to the credit card charges incurred

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Hong Kong (Six-Monthly Report)

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): The latest report on the implementation of the Sino-British Joint Declaration on Hong Kong was published today. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House. A copy of the report is also available on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at: www.fco.gov.uk. The report covers the period from 1 July to 31 December 2008. I commend the report to the House.

HEALTH

Prostate Cancer Screening

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Health (Ann Keen): We are committed to having a prostate cancer screening programme if and when screening and treatment techniques are sufficiently well developed. Major findings on screening for prostate cancer were published in the New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM) on 18 March 2009.

The NEJM reports on two studies. The European trial (the European randomized study on screening for prostate cancer) started in 1993 and reports on 162,000 men from eight countries. It shows that the risk of dying from prostate cancer is reduced amongst those screened by around 20 per cent.. However, around 48 men have to be treated for prostate cancer to avoid one death.

The other research trial (the prostate, lung, colorectal, and ovarian cancer screening trial - PLCO) comes from the United Sates of America. This involves around 75,000 men and shows no benefit from screening.

The United Kingdom National Screening Committee (UKNSC) regularly reviews its policy decisions in the light of new evidence. As a result of the new reports, we will formally ask the UKNSC to review the evidence on prostate cancer screening and make recommendations. We look forward to examining this new evidence.

The prostate cancer risk management programme (PCRMP) is in place to ensure that men without symptoms of prostate cancer can have a prostate specific antigen (PSA) test free on the National Health Service provided they have made an informed choice about the advantages and disadvantages of the test. Any man contemplating having a PSA test or with symptoms of prostate cancer should speak to his general practitioner who will be able to counsel him and provide him with evidence-based support materials.

The chief medical officer has sent an alert to all general practitioners in England to inform them of the new research findings, providing them with a link to the PCRMP materials to assist them in discussing the issues with their patients.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum Support

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas): The UK Border Agency expects those with no right to remain in the United Kingdom to return home voluntarily; if they choose not to, we will enforce their removal. Where an individual, through not fault of their own, cannot be removed we will provide support to prevent destitution. This form of support is called section 4 support and is intended as a limited and temporary form of support. Section 4 support is currently administered through a voucher system.

I have approved plans to introduce a plastic payment card system for the administration of section 4 support, personalised for each applicant. This will enable the UK Border Agency to cut down on the abuse of asylum support and provide a more efficient system.

The UK Border Agency will pilot this scheme in June, with a view to rolling out the cards to all section 4 applicants later this year.

Vetting and Barring Scheme

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier): Since January this year, the new Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) has been taking all barring decisions on new cases referred to it under the current barring provisions of POVA, POCA and List 99. This has replaced barring decisions by Ministers with independent decision making in relation to those persons considered unsuitable to work with children or vulnerable adults.

From 12 October this year, we will bring into force the barring provisions under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, significantly extending the range of activities and workplaces from which individuals may be barred to include all regulated activities, as defined by the Act. In particular, a wider range of posts and workplaces which provide for vulnerable adults will now be covered by the barring arrangements. The ISA will make independent barring decisions on cases referred to it, and bars will apply to paid employment and voluntary work in regulated activities. From this date, those barred under current arrangements who have been transferred to the new barred lists by the ISA will also be barred from the wider scope of regulated activities. It will be an offence for any barred person to work in regulated activities, and for any employer to employ someone he knows to be barred, in either a paid or voluntary capacity. Requirements will also come into force for employers to refer relevant cases to the ISA in instances of harm to the vulnerable groups.

With effect from July 2010, the final element of the new scheme will be phased in. Those wishing to work with children or vulnerable adults will be able to apply for registration with the new scheme; the ISA will consider all cases referred to it and will be able to bar those considered unsuitable for such work; and continuous monitoring of those registered with the scheme will commence. New entrants to the workforce and those changing posts will apply to the scheme first under plans to phase in the workforce gradually. In order not to disrupt normal recruitment processes over the summer period, relevant criminal offences will not be brought into force until November 2010. At this point registration with the new scheme and the requirement for employers to check registered status will become mandatory for the phased-in groups.

CABINET OFFICE

Local and European Elections Guidance

The Minister for the Cabinet Office (Mr. Liam Byrne): Guidance has today been issued to civil servants in UK Departments on the principles which they should observe in relation to the conduct of Government business in the run-up to the forthcoming elections to the European Parliament and to local authorities in England. These are taking place on 4 June 2009.

The guidance sets out the need to maintain the political impartiality of the civil service and the need to ensure that public resources are not used for party political purposes. The period of sensitivity preceding the European and local elections starts on 14 May.

Copies of the guidance have been placed in the Libraries of Houses and on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/civil_service/election_guidance.aspx

Written Ministerial Statements

Friday 20 March 2009

DEFENCE

Gurkha Pensions

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. Kevan Jones): I am pleased to inform the House that with effect from 1 April 2009 there will be an increase in pensions paid through the Gurkha pension scheme of 14.1 per cent.

In addition, there will be significant increases of 20 per cent. and more to some 1,000 pensioners who are 80 years or over. This increase is in line with the tripartite agreement which established a linkage between Indian Army pensions and the Gurkhas pension scheme. This means the elderly who are the most vulnerable will get an overall increase of at least 34 per cent. on their pensions, a significant proportion of which will be backdated to January 2006.

It has always been our policy to ensure that the 26,500 Gurkha pensioners mainly living in Nepal are treated fairly. The Gurkha pension scheme currently costs some £47 million per year and it is calculated that these increases will add to the cost by a further £7 million per year.

This ensures that Gurkha pensions are kept at a fair and appropriate level and that the elderly who are the most vulnerable are helped. It demonstrates our continuing commitment to the retired Gurkha community in Nepal. This also reinforces the UK's long-standing links with the Government of Nepal which we greatly value and would wish to maintain.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

General Affairs and External Relations Council

The Minister for Europe (Caroline Flint): My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I represented the UK at the General Affairs and External Relations Council in Brussels.

The agenda items covered were as follows:

GENERAL AFFAIRS

Full details of A points adopted at the General Affairs Council can be found at: http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/gena/106691.pdf

European Economic Recovery Plan

The Council resumed discussion from the February GAERC of potential means of financing the Commission's proposals for energy and broadband infrastructure projects. The presidency put forward a compromise package, which I supported, on the condition that there would be no further changes to the energy project list, and that existing allocations for carbon capture and storage projects would be maintained. The presidency concluded that the European Council on 19 and 20 March would need to return to the issue.

Preparation of the European Council 19-20 March

The GAERC examined draft conclusions for the Spring European Council (SEC), which cover the economic and financial situation; climate change and energy; and external relations, in particular the eastern partnership. The Government support the presidency's priorities for the SEC.

On the economic and financial situation, there was broad support for the draft conclusions, although my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary noted the need to reflect the outcome of the G20 Finance Ministers' meeting over the weekend. On climate change, he underlined the European Council's commitment to setting out a position on climate financing at the SEC and called for more detailed language on possible options. He also requested European Council text on the EU budget review, calling on the Commission to publish their white paper by the summer. He generally supported the energy part of the text.

On external relations, my right hon. the Foreign Secretary noted plans for Foreign Ministers to discuss Afghanistan and Pakistan, and stressed the importance of a detailed debate on Pakistan, given the gravity of the situation there.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

The full text of Council conclusions (including A points) can be accessed at: http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cmsdata/docs/pressdata/en/gena/106692.pdf

Western Balkans

Discussion focused on Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH).

The Council reviewed progress towards meeting the conditionality for closure of the Office of the High Representative (OHR) and concluded that it had not been met. Recalling its conclusions of November, the Council urged BiH to engage with stronger determination on the necessary reform agenda and called on BiH's political leaders to refrain from nationalist rhetoric and actions. The Council also reconfirmed its readiness for a transition from the OHR to increasing local ownership, supported by a reinforced EU presence, once the conditionality is met. It reviewed progress of EU preparations for this reinforced presence. The Council also agreed to keep under review the possible evolution of EUFOR—ALTHEA (the EU's military operation in BiH) in light of political developments.

The Foreign Secretary emphasised the importance of BiH meeting the conditionality for OHR closure and the need for the EU to remain firmly engaged in efforts to ensure that BiH political leaders took forward the necessary reform agenda. He welcomed the preparations for a future reinforced EU presence and underlined the importance of a strong mandate.

Ministers also commended the efforts of Miroslav Lajčáak, the outgoing High Representative/EU Special Representative and welcomed the appointment of his successor, Valentin Inzko.

Belarus

Ministers agreed to renew the common position on Belarus, which is the legal basis for travel restrictions and an asset freeze for another 12 months, but suspend the travel restrictions (except on those who failed to investigate the "disappearance" of opposition activists in 1999 and 2000, and the chair of the Central Election Committee) for a further nine months. A review of Belarus' progress will take place at the end of the nine months, with the possibility either of re-imposition of sanctions, or their complete lifting. The Government broadly welcome this decision which reflects the mixed progress made by Belarus to date.

The Council adopted conclusions that: confirmed the above decision; welcomed positive steps taken by Belarus following the Council's decision on the temporary suspension of sanctions in October 2008; expressed concerns about the human rights situation and stressed that it was important for Belarus to address these.

Sudan/International Criminal Court

High Representative Solana stressed the extent of the humanitarian problems caused by the expulsion of the 13 international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the need to ensure the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) did not suffer as a result. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary said that the EU needed to keep up the pressure on Sudan to reverse its decision; contacts with the African Union (AU) and the League of Arab States (LAS) were an important part of this; but we also needed to consider urgently what the consequences would be if our current precautionary measures failed and the NGOs were no longer able to operate in Sudan. We would need the AU and the LAS to step in to alleviate the situation; but we should also be aware that we could quickly find ourselves in a serious humanitarian crisis, extending well beyond Darfur.

The Council agreed conclusions, along the lines of UK proposals, recalling the presidency's declaration on behalf of the EU following the Government of Sudan's decision to expel 13 international humanitarian NGOs and revoke the licenses of three local NGOs; and reiterating the presidency's call upon the Government of Sudan to reconsider their decision urgently, and ensure that humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable people in Sudan be continuously guaranteed.

Middle East Peace Process (MEPP)

Ministers took stock of the situation in Gaza, the inter-Palestinian talks and the formation of a new Israeli Government. The Presidency, High Representative Solana and Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner briefed Ministers on their recent contacts with partners in the region including their meeting on 15 March with the Foreign Ministers of Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority.

Transatlantic Relations

The presidency briefed on plans for the informal EU-US summit in Prague on 5 April. They envisaged that discussion would be organised around four main themes: climate change, the global economy, energy and foreign policy. My right hon. Friend Foreign Secretary, with some support, called for Afghanistan to be the main focus of foreign policy discussions.

AOB

Information on the G8 Presidency Programme

Foreign Minister Frattini updated the Council on the Italian G8 presidency priorities for the La Maddalena summit and G8 Foreign Ministers' meeting in June.

Sri Lanka

The Commission raised the deteriorating humanitarian situation; the Government of Sri Lanka had proposed evacuation passages in the remaining conflict area, but these had not been implemented and could not substitute for a ceasefire. They therefore urged the EU to hold a high-level troika with the Government of Sri Lanka and engage with India.

Durban Review Conference

There was an inconclusive discussion of the EU's approach to the Durban review conference, the follow-up to the 2001 UN World Conference Against Racism, which will take place in Geneva in April. Negotiations are continuing in Geneva.

A points

The Council adopted a list of A points, in particular:

Conclusions on *EUFOR Chad/RCA*, welcoming the successful conclusion of the mission.

Conclusions contributing to the *SEC debate on development and climate change*.

Conclusions on *Afghanistan* which: offer substantial financial assistance to the August 2009 elections, including an electoral observation mission (subject to conditions); reaffirm EU commitment to EUPOL and the rule of law, including significantly enhancing capacity building; look towards a single EU representative; agree the need for more and better assistance; highlight the important regional dimension and the EU's intention to play a greater role in supporting Pakistan, including through an ad hoc summit. The conclusions also welcome the visit of Vice-President Biden and look forward to co-operation with the US in a renewed commitment to Afghanistan and the region.

TRANSPORT

Highways Agency Business Plan (2009-10)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick): My noble Friend the Minister of State, Department for Transport, Lord Adonis, has made the following ministerial statement:

The Highways Agency's Business Plan for 2009-10 has been published today. It sets out the agency's budgets for the financial year and how that funding will be spent. The plan contains 13 key performance targets against which the agency's performance during the year will be measured. Copies of the business plan have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Petitions

Thursday 12 March 2009

OBSERVATIONS

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Flooding (Northamptonshire)

The Humble Petition of residents of Isham in the Wellingborough constituency and the surrounding area,

Sheweth

that the village of Isham has seriously flooded three times in the last five years. Previous to this there had been no problems with flooding. Developments of additional housing in the last few years have put pressure on the already strained and ill repaired sewerage and draining systems. The three recent floods have affected several areas of the village, bringing with it immense problems for the homes affected including the leakage of raw sewage. The main trunk road from Wellingborough to Kettering, the A509 also flooded and had to be temporarily closed.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House urges the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to liaise with the Parish Council of Isham, the Borough Council of Wellingborough, Northamptonshire County Council and Anglian Water to find a solution to the problem of local flooding and to properly maintain the local sewerage system.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Mr. Peter Bone, Official Report,* 10 December 2008; Vol. 485, c. 647 .]

[P000296]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government:

The Secretary of State acknowledges the concerns of the petitioners regarding the recent flooding of Isham, and notes that the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has responded to a petition on this issue raised by Mr Bone in January. Officials have contacted the Environment Agency who lead on this issue, and understand that the information provided by the Environment Agency remains current. The Environment Agencies key points are referenced below.

The flooding has a surface water origin and is not related to any Main River flooding.

It arises from inadequacies in the surface water drainage system in the village. There is no surface water sewer in the village. A number of highways drains taking surface runoff from agricultural land and paved areas have been connected to the foul sewer. Foul sewers are not designed to receive large quantities of surface water and therefore during periods of heavy rainfall the sewer has overflowed through manholes causing flooding to some local residential properties.

The foul sewer is owned and maintained by Anglian Water. The surface water connections have been made without Anglian Water's knowledge. Anglian Water have surveyed the sewer, undertaken maintenance and carried out minor repairs. The sewer is in good condition however this will not resolve the problem.

To the Environment Agency's knowledge, the flooding has not been caused by additional foul sewage from new development.

The Environment Agency have contacted Anglian Water on this matter. They are aware of the issue and are seeking to progress a solution with the Highways Department at Northamptonshire County Council.

The solution to the flooding will involve redirecting the surface water from the foul sewer to a suitable surface water drainage system. Anglian Water has served notice on the Highways Agency to do this.

The Environment Agency will be urging both Anglian Water, Wellingborough District Council and Northamptonshire County Council to resolve this matter without undue delay. We will convene a meeting bringing all parties together as soon as practicable to agree actions and timescales.

Environment Agency have spoken to Mrs A.G. McLaven, Clerk to Isham Parish Council, to advise her of the above and reassure the Council that they will be working to ensure that a swift solution to this problem is progressed. The Environment Agency have undertaken to keep her informed of progress.

Petition

Friday 13 March 2009

OBSERVATIONS

HOME DEPARTMENT

Immigration and Citizenship

The Humble Petition of the Malayalee community of Southend-on-Sea, Essex,

Sheweth: that the proposal in the Home Office's Green Paper 'The Path to Citizenship' to increase the minimum period of temporary residency on the path to permanent settlement from five years to as much as ten years would not be fair to immigrants already in the United Kingdom who had anticipated they could permanently settle after only five years, and would result in one of the longest delays in access to citizenship in the European Union.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House do urge the Secretary of State for the Home Department to allow those already in the United Kingdom to keep their entitlement to settle as per the existing rules.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Mr. David Amess, Official Report,* 18 December 2008; Vol. 485, c. 1343.]

[P000303]

Observations from the Secretary of State for the Home Department:

The Government are currently taking forward the most radical reform of the immigration system in a generation. We are making changes to the way people come here and how we police our borders. To ensure these changes take real effect, we have proposed a fundamental overhaul of the law. Our earlier consultations showed widespread support for our ambition to reform and strengthen the law.

Having listened to and responded to the concerns of the British public we set out in the Government's response to the Green Paper on citizenship what the new path to citizenship will be. Full details of our proposals were also published in the Borders, Citizenship and Immigration Bill on 15 January. As part of our work we examined the requirements which will enable a migrant to progress on his path towards citizenship and also the rights and benefits available to him during that journey.

The measures we are introducing will ensure that economic migrants seeking citizenship have earned the right by demonstrating English language ability, contributing economically over a period of time and obeying the law. Where these requirements are met citizenship can be obtained after eight years. It can also be obtained more quickly—after six years—where the economic migrant undertakes active citizenship in the community.

We believe it is right to allow those who demonstrate their commitment to the UK by playing an active part in the community to achieve citizenship more quickly than those who do not. In addition, the Government want to encourage those who wish to remain in the UK to become British citizens. That is why we have proposed those who choose not to do so should be required to spend up to 10 years before they can remain permanently and access benefits. The deliberate intention of this proposal is to encourage more eligible migrants to become British and we believe that this is a clear incentive that will help achieve that aim.

We will set out in due course how the proposals will affect those already in the UK.

Petitions

Monday 16 March 2009

OBSERVATIONS

TRANSPORT

Traffic Management (County Durham)

The Petition of residents of Brancepeth Village, County Durham, and others,

Declares that the residents of Brancepeth Village have for many years requested a 30 mph speed limit to be imposed on the A690 road through Brancepeth; further declares that although the speed limit has been reduced to 40 mph, lighting has been provided on the dangerous crossroads in the village centre and a 30 mph speed limit is now in place on the Wolsingham Road that crosses the A690, the traffic on the A690 itself continues to pose a threat to life and limb;

Notes that traffic problems are intensifying in the village for three main reasons: first, the ageing population has to cross the A690 to access village amenities, such as the Village Hall and Church; second, there is a growing number of very young children in the village and young mothers with push chairs report that crossing the A690 is a frightening prospect; and third, now that the recreational area has been brought back into use, there are very many more pedestrians of all ages crossing the main road to avail themselves of this amenity; further notes that without a 30 mph speed limit and accompanying illuminated signs, there is a high risk of further fatalities.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Transport to put pressure on the local authorities to impose as soon as possible a 30 mph speed limit on the A690 road through Brancepeth, in accordance with the national traffic policy for rural villages, with accompanying illuminated signs.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Dr. Roberta Blackman-Woods, Official Report,* 5 February 2009; Vol. 487, c. 1084.]

[P000315]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Transport:

Local authorities are responsible for setting their own speed limits and for introducing any measures considered necessary to ensure compliance. As such, local authorities have the power to implement 30 mph limits on any of their roads if they believe it appropriate to do so. Local authorities have been given this responsibility because their knowledge of local needs and conditions means that they are ideally placed to determine appropriate speed limits for individual roads based on their knowledge of the area and taking into account their wider network management responsibilities.

The Department's guidance to local traffic authorities on setting local speed limits (DfT Circular 01/2006) was published in August 2006. This document recognised the need to improve speed limit consistency across the rural road network and suggests a two tier approach when setting rural speed limits. The upper tier focuses on A and B roads, while the lower tier concentrates on the C and unclassified roads. Each tier has a recommended speed limit for certain circumstances. A speed assessment framework is incorporated into the guidance which will assist local authorities with their decision making process.

This document also recognises that rural settlements deserve the same protection from vehicle speeds as those offered to residents in more urban areas. It is therefore Government policy that villages should be subject to a 30 mph speed limit wherever practicable. Traffic Advisory Leaflet 1/04 Village Speed Limits provides additional guidance on achieving lower speed limits in villages.

The Department firmly believes that the setting of speed limits is a local matter and the final decision should rightly rest with the local authority. In this regard local authorities should work closely with their local police force to agree on appropriate speed limits for individual roads and to determine what measures are needed to ensure compliance. This process will not only improve road safety but will lead to increased respect for and compliance with speed limits.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 9 March 2009

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Sex Establishments: Planning Permission

Julie Morgan: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality if she will make an assessment of *(a)* the account taken by local authorities of the gender equality duty in determining applications for the opening of lap-dancing clubs and *(b)* levels of use by local authorities of their powers to control the opening and regulation of such clubs. [260515]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I have been asked to reply.

Currently, lap dancing clubs are required to obtain a premises licence or club premises certificate for regulated entertainment and the licensing authority will consider such applications in accordance with its powers to control and regulate such clubs under the Licensing Act 2003. The Government do not collect specific information on decisions taken by licensing authorities relating to applications for lap dancing clubs.

On the 18 June 2008 the Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport wrote to chief executives of local authorities on the subject of lap dancing clubs to seek their views on whether they considered their powers under the Licensing Act 2003 were sufficient to regulate and control the opening of lap dancing in their area. This attracted 117 responses, the majority of which felt that additional legislation should be introduced to provide controls which are specific to lap dancing and similar premises.

In response, the Government have included provisions in the Policing and Crime Bill to reclassify lap dancing clubs as sex encounter venues under Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982. This will give local authorities more powers to control the number and location of lap dancing clubs. It will also allow them to consider their obligations under the Gender Equality Duty when determining new applications if appropriate.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Reform

Simon Hughes: To ask the Leader of the House what proposals she has for further modernisation of the working practices of the House. [260761]

Chris Bryant: The Modernisation Committee is currently inquiring into the arrangements for recall and dissolution. Other proposals are being considered by the Procedure Committee.

My right hon. and learned Friend is always keen to hear proposals for modernisation of the working practices of the House.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what his Department's entertainment budget was in each of the last five years. [261114]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office does not separately record entertainment costs. Any such costs will be met from within the Office's hospitality budget. The hospitality budget over the last five years was as follows:

	Budget (£000)
2004-05	26
2005-06	25
2006-07	25
2007-08	25
2008-09	23

The events run from within the Office's hospitality budget continue to be popular with MPs of all parties with relevant Scottish constituencies taking the opportunity to engage with important stakeholders and groups in Scotland.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* food in each of the last five years. [261158]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland office does not hold the information in the format requested.

Departmental Press

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department has spent on *(a)* newspapers, *(b)* magazines and *(c)* periodicals in each year since 1997. [261279]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. The office provides corporate services, such as the payment of invoices, to the Office of the Advocate General. Separate figures for newspapers and magazines for each office are not recorded; and the cost of periodicals is subsumed within the overall library costs, such as the purchase of books. Expenditure by both offices on newspapers and magazines was as follows:

	Cost (£)
1999-2000	9,096
2000-01	13,639
2001-02	12,968
2002-03	12,990
2003-04	12,536
2004-05	11,546
2005-06	9,318
2006-07	9,753
2007-08	6,728

Departmental Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was spent by his Department on staff surveys in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008; and which companies were contracted to carry out the surveys. [260943]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office ran one internally delivered staff survey during 2007 at no additional cost to the office. No staff survey was undertaken in 2008.

Public Opinion

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* opinion polling, *(b)* focus groups and *(c)* other forms of market research in each year since 1997; if he will list the surveys commissioned; and what the purpose was of each. [261280]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office was established in its present form on 1 July 1999. The Scotland Office incurred no costs on focus groups, opinion polls or other forms of market research between 1999-2000 and 2007-08. The office's estimated spend in 2008-09 on focus groups, to solicit views of voters to the Gould recommendations, is expected to be £24,500; no costs are anticipated on opinion polls or other forms of market research .

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Angling

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many rod licences were granted to people in each age group in each of the last five years. [260697]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency sells different types of licences for fishing with rod and line in England, Wales and on the Border Esk in Scotland. The licence year runs from 1 April to 31 March. People over 65 years old are eligible for a concessionary licence while those between 12 and 16 years, inclusive, can buy a junior licence. Full licences are bought by people from 17 to 64 years, inclusive. One-day or eight-day licences can be bought by any age group. Published sales of each licence type are:

Rod licence type	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*[1]
Full	629,100	672,243	666,533	682,709	680,279
Concessionary (senior or disabled)	158,742	147,166	140,991	155,585	159,348
Junior	125,930	123,046	117,770	128,740	120,250
Eight day	43,197	44,688	47,733	55,747	64,223
One day	279,020	309,690	308,510	336,183	323,990
Total	1,235,989	1,296,843	1,281,537	1,358,964	1,348,090

[1] Sales to end of December 2008.

Departmental Art Works

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which works of art from the Government Art Collection each Minister in his Department has selected for display in a private office. [259445]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA Ministers have the following works of art from the Government Art Collection displayed in their departmental offices:

The Secretary of State (the right hon. Hilary Benn MP)—four prints

Thomas Shotter Boys—Hyde Park Corner

Thomas Shotter Boys—Westminster Abbey

Edmund Walker and Thomas Picken—The New Houses of Parliament

William Parrott—Chelsea with part of the Old Church

Minister of State (the noble Lord Hunt)—one drawing, two prints and four photographs

Elsie Few—Desert

June Berry—The Green, Green Grass

Brendan Neiland—Millbank

Andy Goldsworthy—Ice Sphere

Andy Goldsworthy—Ice Sphere (pendant)

Andy Goldsworthy—Ice Star

Andy Goldsworthy—Ice Star (pendant)

Neither the Minister of State, my right hon. Friend the Member for Liverpool, Wavertree , or I have any artwork from the Government Art Collection displayed in our offices.

Fish Farms: Pollution Control

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's policy to minimise pollution from fish farms. [260698]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency issues consents to all fish farms to control the discharge to the environment of pollutants expected from this type of operation. It does this by putting chemical limits on the consent which cannot be exceeded or issues a differential consent which compares upstream and downstream impacts.

Fish farms also use various chemicals to control pests on the fish and treat infection. The Environment Agency asks the farmer to provide a chemical use plan which specifies the amount of chemical applied to the fish.

From this the Environment Agency can work out the environmental impact downstream and compare against predetermined no-effect concentrations to fish and other organisms. Through this approach, the agency ensures that downstream environments are protected.

Fisheries: South West

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many fisheries officers were based in each principal coastal town in Devon and Cornwall in each of the last three years. [260658]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Data for the number of fishery officers in the Marine and Fisheries Agency is contained in the following table.

	2008			2007			2006		
Office	*District inspector*	*Senior fishery officer*	*Fishery officer*	*District inspector*	*Senior fishery officer*	*Fishery officer*	*District inspector*	*Senior fishery officer*	*Fishery officer*
Plymouth	1	1	2	1	1	3	1	1	3
Brixham	—	1	2	—	1	3	—	1	3
Newlyn	1	1	3	1	1	3	1	1	3
Penryn	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	2

Fisheries: Western Sahara

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely effect on UK-registered vessels fishing in waters off Western Saharan waters of the declaration of an exclusive economic zone covering such waters. [260843]

Huw Irranca-Davies: As yet no assessment has been made of the impact that this declaration will have on UK registered vessels.

Flood Control

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many flood risk management projects his Department has identified for implementation but not yet progressed; what estimate has been made of the cost of each such project; and if he will make a statement. [259959]

Huw Irranca-Davies: 30 projects with a construction budget of over £250,000 have been identified for implementation in the 2007-08 Medium Term Plan. Two of these projects are currently not being progressed.

Ipswich Flood Defence Management Strategy Civil works is on hold as it is rescheduled for implementation in 2011-12 as part of the delivery of the Ipswich strategy. This project has a budget of £544,500.

The Ashburton Ballard Stream Improvements project has closed as the scheme is not economically viable. This project spent £31,500 on the pre-feasibility study.

Floods: Canvey Island

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions the Environment Agency has had with Castle Point councillor Ray Howard on development on flood risk areas on Canvey Island in the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [260871]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 6 March 2009]:* Councillor Howard is a long serving member of the Anglian (Eastern) Regional Flood Defence Committee. In fulfilling this role Councillor Howard has frequent discussions with Environment Agency officers regarding a wide range of flood risk management issues which include development in flood risk areas, such as Canvey Island. Councillor Howard has recently written to the Environment Agency on this matter.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Somerset

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 28 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 523-4W, on genetically modified (GM) organisms: Somerset, (1) what steps have been taken to protect seed imports destined for commercial crop production from GM contamination in the light of the oilseed rape crop contamination in South Somerset; [260685]

(2) what the separation distance between the oilseed rape crop in South Somerset found to be contaminated with a GM trait in 2008 and the neighbouring crop of oilseed rape was; [260686]

(3) whether the crop neighbouring the oilseed rape crop in South Somerset found to be contaminated with a GM trait in 2008 was a winter variety; [260687]

(4) what steps have been taken to prevent further GM contamination in the area surrounding the original contamination site; [260688]

(5) what distance was maintained between the GM contaminated crop and surrounding crops. [260689]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The DEFRA GM Inspectorate works with conventional seed importers to review their procedures for avoiding GM admixture. We are now considering together with the authorities in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland what steps are needed to further minimise the possibility that GM seed might be sown accidentally in the UK.

The crop grown by the farmer in Somerset from seed with a low GM admixture was of a winter oilseed rape variety. The other trial crop of conventional oilseed rape that he grew at the same time was of a spring variety. These crops were grown immediately adjacent to each other within the same field. No other oilseed rape crops are thought to have been grown in the surrounding area to a distance of approximately four miles.

The affected farmer has taken and will continue to implement appropriate measures to reduce the presence of GM oilseed rape volunteer plants. A management plan for this has been agreed between the farmer, the seed company involved and the GM Inspectorate.

Litter: Costs

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the cost of clearing litter from *(a)* roads, *(b)* railways, *(c)* footpaths, *(d)* beaches, *(e)* national parks and *(f)* other public spaces in the last 12 months. [261363]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 6 March 2009]:* DEFRA does not keep figures on the costs of clearing litter from the public spaces requested.

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost to local authorities of removing chewing gum from *(a)* streets and *(b)* other public places was in each of the last five years. [261436]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 6 March 2009]:* DEFRA does not keep figures on the cost to local authorities of removing chewing gum.

Litter: Expenditure

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding his Department has given to the Keep Britain Tidy campaign in each of the last five years. [261362]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 6 March 2009]:* The following table shows the grant funding to ENCAMS (also known as Keep Britain Tidy) over the last five years. As well as campaigning on litter, ENCAMS provides research and technical advice to Government.

	£ million
2008-09	5.0
2007-08	4.6
2006-07	5.1
2005-06	5.5
2004-05	3.9

Nature Conservation

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons the higher level stewardship target area statements for areas outside the East of England region do not list endangered *(a)* bees, *(b)* beetles and *(c)* other invertebrates as qualifying features. [260292]

Huw Irranca-Davies: There are 110 published target areas for the Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) scheme in England. These are based upon data and evidence and show the areas where the scheme is best able to deliver the environmental outcomes that it was designed to deliver.

The reason behind the apparent anomaly between the East of England target area statements and those in other regions, is that the East of England contains several target areas which include significant areas of arable land that support populations of rare invertebrates. Therefore there is specific reference to these within the target area statements. In most other regions the majority of arable land, and the rare invertebrates that depend upon it, are found outside the target areas.

Outside target areas HLS can still be very important so each region has identified themes to address HLS priorities. The supporting regional theme statements give detail on these priorities and, in regions where rare invertebrates are present, these are specifically mentioned as qualifying features.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what species of *(a)* plants and *(b)* animals are believed to have become extinct in Britain within the last 25 years; and if he will make a statement. [260699]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Determining whether or not a species has become extinct is not an easy task. The approach taken in the UK can be summarised by reference to the guidance drawn up by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (2001):

> Extinct (ex). A taxon is extinct when there is no reasonable doubt that the last individual has died. A taxon is presumed extinct when exhaustive surveys in known and/or expected habitat, at appropriate times (diurnal, seasonal, annual), throughout its historic range have failed to record an individual. Surveys should be over a time frame appropriate to the taxon's life cycle and life form.

The default time frame used in the UK to determine when a species has become extinct, is when there has been no record of the species in the last 50 years. Occasionally, for very well-recorded species, a shorter time frame is appropriate.

The following table records the best available data:

Name	*Extinct*	*Extant—date of last record*
Short-haired Bumble Bee (Bombus subterraneus)	2006	1988
The Starry Breck Lichen (Buellia asterella)	—	1999
Ivell's Sea Anemone (Edwardsia ivelli)	—	[1]1983
Ghost Orchid (Epipogium aphyllum)	2002	1986
Black-Backed Meadow Ant (Formica pratensis)	1980s	—
Cuckoo Bee (Nomada errans)	2006	1982
Pool Frog (Pelophylax lessonae)	[2]1999	—
Hair Silk-Moss (Plagiothecium piliferum)	2007	1939
Rove Beetle (Stenus palposus)	—	[3]1985
Essex Emerald Moth (Thetidia smaragdaria)	[4]1991	—

[1] Possibly extinct.
[2] The pool frog has since been reintroduced and is part of an ongoing reintroduction scheme.
[3] May be extinct.
4 Extinct in the wild.
Note:
We cannot be certain that there have been no other extinctions because we do not have a complete inventory of species in the UK and not all groups are well recorded.

Rural Enterprise Scheme: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people in Hemel Hempstead constituency have received funding from the *(a)* Rural Enterprise Scheme, *(b)* Processing and Marketing Grants Scheme and *(c)* Vocational Training Scheme in each year since their introduction; and what the duration was of the funding received from each scheme. [261188]

Huw Irranca-Davies: No one in the Hemel Hempstead constituency received funding from any of these schemes which formed part of the England Rural Development Programme. The programme closed on 31 December 2006.

TRANSPORT

Blue Badge Scheme

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his Department's timetable is for implementation of its Comprehensive Blue Badge Reform Strategy. [260838]

Paul Clark: As announced in our Strategy document, we are developing a five-year implementation plan for completion of the whole programme. Individual elements of the programme will come on-stream over that five-year period.

Bus Services: Concessions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the merits of extending the national free concessionary bus pass scheme as it applies to disabled people to peak operating hours; and if he will make a statement. [261085]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport recently commissioned research on the cost and impact of options for extending the current statutory minimum concessionary travel scheme. Based on this research, the Department estimates that it would cost around an extra £22 million per annum to extend the concession to enable peak hour travel for eligible disabled people.

There are no plans at present to extend the statutory minimum to cover travel before 9.30 am. Local authorities have the power to extend their local concessionary travel schemes to include journeys in the morning peak if they so wish. Local authorities are best placed to make this decision based on local needs and circumstances. Any decision to extend the England-wide entitlement would have to be fully funded locally and would require careful consideration of the full impact.

Bus Services: Hampshire

Sir Peter Viggers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when a decision will be made on the bid by Transport for South Hampshire for community infrastructure funding for the development of a busway on the former Gosport to Fareham railway line. [261440]

Paul Clark: The Departments for Transport and Communities and Local Government (with advice from the Homes and Communities Agency) are currently considering the full business cases for schemes in this round of the Community Infrastructure Fund. It is expected that the successful bidders will be announced later this month.

Cycling: Helmets

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what timetable he has set for the publication of his Department's review of the wearing of cycle helmets. [261798]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department has commissioned a research project looking at a range of road safety and cycling issues. This will examine the following topics:

Road user safety and cycling data;

Cycling infrastructure;

Attitudes and behaviours;

Bicycle helmets.

The project has been commissioned from a consortium led by the Transport Research Laboratory.

The contract began on 21 August 2008 and will run for 24 months. The Department expects to publish the final reports in autumn 2010.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Tolls

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make all people living in West Chelmsford constituency eligible to register for the local residents scheme for the Dartford Crossing. [261778]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has no plans to extend the area eligible for the local discount scheme at the Dartford-Thurrock Crossing.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* consultants and *(b)* contractors are working on the flexible benefits project for the central units of his Department. [261591]

Mr. Hoon: One interim manager is working on the project. The supplier, Benefex Limited, is developing the solution.

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the flexible benefits project for the central units of his Department has cost to date. [261592]

Mr. Hoon: No payment has yet been made to the supplier of the system.

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether staff in the central units of his Department will be able to book season ticket loans via the shared service portal once the proposed flexible benefits website is operational. [261594]

Mr. Hoon: Applications for season ticket loans are currently paper-based but will continue to be processed by the Shared Services Centre.

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which company won the tender to operate his Department's flexible benefits project. [261595]

Mr. Hoon: The contract was awarded to Benefex Limited.

Driving: Licensing

Sir Alan Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received from motoring organisations on procedures for informing motorists of the requirement to renew photo-card driving licences every 10 years. [260890]

Jim Fitzpatrick: No direct representations have been received from motoring organisations.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's latest estimate is of the number of cars not properly registered on their databases. [261507]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) does not hold this information in the format required.

The main issue the DVLA has with vehicles being incorrectly registered on its database is that the keeper's name and address may be out of date. There are 34 million licensed vehicles on the DVLA database and the latest survey, which tests whether they are all traceable back to their current keeper, showed that 95.7 per cent. of vehicle keepers could be traced starting with the DVLA's main record. These figures cover all types of vehicles, not just cars.

M1

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the estimated cost of widening the M1 between junctions 6a and 10 is; and how much of that sum will be paid from public funds. [261611]

Paul Clark: The currently estimated final (outturn) total cost of widening the M1 between junctions 6a and 10 is £294 million.

The whole of this sum will be paid from public funds.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his latest estimate is of the cost of the construction of the M1 widening between junctions 6 and 10. [261253]

Paul Clark: The latest estimate of the overall cost of the M1 J6a - 10 Widening scheme is £294 million.

M1: Nottinghamshire

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects the roadworks in Nottinghamshire on the M1 motorway north of junction 25 to be completed; and if he will make a statement. [261869]

Paul Clark: It is expected that the improvements on the M1 J25-28 will be completed in October 2010.

M25

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost of widening the M25 between junctions 1b and 3 was; and how much of this sum came from public funds. [261612]

Paul Clark: The total cost of the M25 J1b-3 widening scheme was £57 million as at 28 February 2009. All of this sum came from public funds.

M6

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost of extending the M6 from Carlisle to Guards Mill was; and how much of this sum came from public funds. [261610]

Paul Clark: As work is still ongoing with aftercare and landscape planting taking place the final outturn cost is not yet determined. The scheme outturn cost is presently forecast at approximately £150 million. This also includes capital works to upgrade the Mossband Viaduct and access provision for the Carlisle Northern Development Route.

The costs are to be met from public funds with a contribution of €8,510,000 provided by the European Union as the road forms part of the Trans European Network.

Motor Vehicles

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the number of cars on the road without valid *(a)* road tax and *(b)* insurance. [261544]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport published national statistics in December 2008 that estimated that the overall rate of unlicensed vehicles was 1 per cent. in 2008, equivalent to approximately 330,000 vehicles.

On insurance, a roadside survey (Operation V79) was carried out by the Department in March 2008. 6,689 vehicles were stopped at random by police and checked for compliance with driver and vehicle licensing regulations. The recorded level of uninsured drivers from this survey was 1.2 per cent. However, comparison of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency's vehicle register and motor insurance database suggests the total figure of uninsured driving is likely to be higher. In 2005, a comparison of the two databases estimated that about 2.1 million licensed vehicles were being driven by uninsured drivers. The comparison looks at all vehicle keepers and motor insurance policies and does not rely on vehicles being spotted in use on the road. Further work continues on a more recent comparison of the two databases and is undergoing validity checks by departmental statisticians.

Motor Vehicles: Cleveland

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many vehicles have been seized from *(a)* disqualified and *(b)* uninsured drivers in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last two years. [260791]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Information on vehicles seized is not held on a constituency basis.

The Motor Insurers' Bureau (MIB) receives information from all police forces on the number of vehicles seized. MIB figures for Cleveland police show that in 2008 196 vehicles were seized as a result of the driver not having a licence and 2,049 vehicles were seized for being uninsured. In 2007 a total of 1,829 vehicles were seized: however there is no breakdown available on the split between unlicensed and uninsured driving.

Motorways: Repairs and Maintenance

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1271W on the M1: Bedfordshire, what other hard shoulder running schemes on the *(a)* M1, *(b)* M25, *(c)* M6, *(d)* M62, *(e)* M3, *(f)* M4 approaching London, *(g)* motorways around Manchester, *(h)*

motorways around Birmingham and *(i)* motorways around Bristol are planned for 2009-10. [261510]

Paul Clark: Details of the hard shoulder running schemes on England's motorways are set out in "Britain's Transport Infrastructure Motorways and Major Trunk Roads" published on 15 January 2009. Copies of this document are available in the House Library or on the Department for Transport's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/network/policy/motorways/

The hard shoulder running schemes that are expected to enter construction in 2009/10 in addition to M1 J10-13 are M4 J19-20, M5 J15-17 and M6 J8-10a.

Public Opinion

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what expenditure has been incurred by his Department and its agencies on *(a)* opinion polling, *(b)* focus groups and *(c)* other forms of market research in each year since its inception; what such surveys were commissioned; and what the purpose was of each. [261251]

Mr. Hoon: The information requested could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Railway Stations: Finance

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department plans to spend on the maintenance and development of railway stations in *(a)* West Lancashire constituency and *(b)* England in the next three years. [262064]

Paul Clark: The information is not available in the format requested. But Network Rail is funded, as set out in the Office of Rail Regulation's Final Determinations for Control Period 4, to ensure that there is no worsening in the average condition of each category of station on the network during Control Period 4 (2009-10 to 2013-14).

At the same time, the Government are investing in improvements to stations through the national stations improvement programme, a programme of platform lengthening and the rebuilding of Birmingham New Street and Reading stations.

Railways Stations: Manpower

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect of staffing at railway station ticket offices on levels of *(a)* graffiti and vandalism, *(b)* anti-social behaviour and *(c)* crime at rail stations; and if he will make a statement. [261573]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has not made any assessments of the effect of staffed ticket offices on levels of graffiti and vandalism, antisocial behaviour or crime at rail stations.

The Government, the transport industry, local authorities and others are investing in and undertaking wide-ranging initiatives to tackle graffiti, vandalism, antisocial behaviour and crime at rail stations. These include staffing initiatives, staff training, CCTV surveillance, help points, good lighting and clear sight lines. There is also a range of legal measures available to transport operators to deal with antisocial behaviour.

As part of the Secure Stations Scheme accreditation process, a record of crime and other incidents is required to be maintained and regularly monitored to identify any particular trends.

In recent franchise competitions, we have continued with the policy of asking franchise bidders to achieve Secure Stations Scheme accreditation to cover 80 per cent. of its franchise footfall.

Railways: Plastics

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* meetings, *(b)* correspondence and *(c)* telephone contacts officials in his Department have had with Iplas plc of Halifax on the procurement of rail sleepers, in the last 12 months. [260944]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport is not aware of any contact in the last year.

The procurement of sleepers is an operational matter for Network Rail as the owner and operator of the national rail network. My right hon. Friend should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to his questions:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London, N1 9AG

Railways: Standards

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of train services have been *(a)* delayed and *(b)* cancelled in (i) England, (ii) the North East, (iii) Tees Valley district and (iv) Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last 10 years. [260967]

Paul Clark: The latest 10-year period for which cancellation figures are available for England and Wales is February 1999 to February 2009. The proportion of planned passenger train services cancelled for their whole journey is given by year in the following table:

	Cancellations (percentage)
1999-2000	1.1
2000-01	2.3
2001-02	1.8
2002-03	1.6
2003-04	1.3
2004-05	1.2
2005-06	1.2
2006-07	1.2
2007-08	1.1
2008-09	1.0

The Department for Transport does not hold information about delays and cancellations specific to the north-east, Tees Valley district and Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland. Neither does the Department hold information about proportions of trains delayed on their journey; therefore, data specific to delays are unavailable.

The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) is responsible for publishing and monitoring data on rail performance, and for a breakdown by individual train operator, my hon. Friend may wish to consult ORR's publication 'National Rail Trends' on their website at:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/nav.1863

Regional Transport Forums

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what monitoring or reviewing his Department undertakes of the decisions of regional transport boards; and if he will make a statement. [261368]

Paul Clark: Regional transport boards or equivalent bodies have been established in most regions by regional bodies, local authorities and other partners to consider and advise on strategic transport issues in the region. Particular arrangements, roles and responsibilities vary between regions. The bodies have been established voluntarily by regions and the Department for Transport has no role in overseeing them.

Regional transport boards often play a part in preparing advice from the region to Government, for example on regional strategies and funding. Decisions on such matters are however for Government rather than the boards.

Roads and Railways: Construction

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many employees of *(a)* the Highways Agency and *(b)* external contractors he expects to work on (i) the motorways and major trunk roads scheme, (ii) electrification of the Midland Mainline and Great Western lines and (iii) High Speed Two in (A) 2009-10, (B) 2010-11 and (C) 2011-12. [261556]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 6 March 2009]:* The Highways Agency cannot provide the information in the form sought, particularly in relation to contractors. However, the Major Projects Directorate of the Agency, whose job it is to oversee the preparation, design and construction of motorway and trunk road schemes, comprises 357 staff.

Staff from Network Operations Directorate are also engaged in scheme delivery and a large proportion of its circa 800 staff members are involved in scheme delivery of renewal, improvement or maintenance schemes. This number excludes the Traffic Officer Service.

"Britain's Transport Infrastructure: High Speed Two", published in January 2009, said that High Speed Two (HS2) Ltd would draw on resources from Network Rail and the Department for Transport. It is expected this will number up to about 25 people, plus consultancy resources as necessary. The process for recruitment of these resources is a matter for the company. Future resource requirements at High Speed Two are dependent upon ministerial decisions following HS2's report at the end of this year.

The Secretary of State for Transport confirmed in January that a decision on the electrification of Midland Main Line and Great Western Main Line would be announced later this year. Should a positive decision be made, it will be for Network Rail to manage the delivery of any electrification scheme and to appoint appropriate contractors.

Rolling Stock: Procurement

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport in which country the *(a)* design and development work and *(b)* construction of the initial batch of engines and carriages for the new Intercity Express programme trains will take place. [261552]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 6 March 2009]:* The design and development work associated with the Super Express contract will be split between the UK and Japan. Agility estimates that 50 UK-based design jobs will be created shortly as a result of their Super Express proposals. Construction of the first 70 of the total 1,400 Super Express vehicles will be done in Japan.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the compatibility with EU competition law of the undertaking given by Hitachi and its partners that 70 per cent. of the contract value for the new Intercity Express programme train will be spent in the UK. [261555]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 6 March 2009]:* In Agility Trains' press release of 12 February, the consortium committed to spending 70 per cent. of the Super Express contract value in the UK. This commitment did not form part of Agility's bid and it was not a factor in the Department for Transport's evaluation of the proposals. It is for Agility to source suppliers in order to deliver the Department's specification and it is for the consortium to tender the work as appropriate and to honour any relevant EU competition laws.

Transport: Schools

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to his Department's publication "Travelling to School: An Action Plan", whether his Department has estimated the number of cars on the school run on urban roads in the morning peak traffic period during term time. [261543]

Paul Clark: Data on the number of cars on the school run are not available centrally. However, figures on the proportion of car trips in the morning peak period in urban areas which were taking children to school are published in "National Travel Survey: 2006". This publication is available on the Department for Transport's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/personal/mainresults/nts2006/

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Absenteeism

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff of his Department were recorded absent for non-medical reasons on *(a)* 2 February 2009 and *(b)* 3 February 2009; what estimate he has made of the (i) cost to his Department and (ii) number of working hours lost as a result of such absence; and what guidance his Department issued to staff in respect of absence on those days. [260576]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information on how many staff in the Department for International Development (DFID) were recorded absent due to non-medical reasons on *(a)* 2 February 2009 and *(b)* 3 February 2009; plus (i) the associated cost of such absence, and (ii) the number of working hours lost due to such absence cannot be provided because the information is not held centrally.

It is for individual staff to agree holidays or time off from work or alternative arrangements to work from home with their line managers.

On 2 February 2009, guidance was issued stating that given the severe disruption to transport and schools we were not expecting most London-based staff to be able to get to work. Staff were advised to do whatever work they could from home, otherwise the absence would not be treated as a day of leave. London-based staff who were able to get in were advised to leave work in good time to get home because of the transport disruption and the expectation that the snow would get worse.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff in his Department were disciplined for *(a)* bullying and *(b)* harassment of colleagues in each of the last three years. [254083]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) has disciplined less than five employees for *(a)* bullying and *(b)* harassment of colleagues in each of the last three years. Due to the small number of cases, a detailed breakdown is not made public on the grounds of confidentiality.

Departmental Personnel

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* dates of employment, *(b)* salary and *(c)* other costs of employment were of the interim HR Manager provided by Penna Consulting Plc to his Department in 2008, reference number 200808430. [259462]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) contracted Penna Interim to provide an interim HR director (contract title: interim HR manager) from 7 April to 31 October 2008. The overall contract cost was £200,920.28 which includes management service, fees, and travel and expenses.

DFID cannot comment on salary and other employment costs because the interim HR director was not an employee of DFID.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will place in the Library a copy of his reply to the letter of 12 February 2009 from the hon. Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk (Mr. Moore) on his Department's Spring Supplementary Estimates. [261562]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The letter sent to the hon. Member for Berwickshire, Roxburgh and Selkirk on the Department's spring supplementary estimates will be placed in the Library.

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 100-01WS, on departmental expenditure limits, what the *(a)* nature and *(b)* location of the work undertaken by locally-engaged staff in Iraq in respect of which his Department plans to transfer £300,000 to the Ministry of Defence was. [261671]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Locally engaged staff, referred to in the written ministerial statement of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 100-01WS, were employed to support the delivery of the Department for International Development's (DFID) programmes in Iraq. Work included project administration and translation. The staff were located at DFID's offices in Baghdad and Basra.

Developing Countries: HIV Infection

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent estimate he has made of the number of people in developing countries directly affected by HIV/AIDS; and what percentage of such people have access to HIV/AIDS treatments. [261462]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development relies on data produced by UNAIDS. The global AIDS epidemic is stabilising but at an unacceptably high level. According to the 2008 report on the global AIDS epidemic, published by UNAIDS worldwide, there were an estimated 33 million (30-36 million) people living with HIV in 2007. Sub-Saharan Africa remains the region most heavily affected by HIV, accounting for 67 per cent. of all people living with HIV and for 75 per cent. of AIDS deaths in 2007.

By the end of 2007, antiretroviral drugs reached three million people in low and middle-income countries, representing 31 per cent. of estimated global need, and a 45 per cent. improvement over the position in 2006.

Further data available from the UNAIDS 2008 report on the global AIDS epidemic are available at:

http://www.unaids.org/en/KnowledgeCentre/HIVData/GlobalReport/2008/2008_Global_report.asp

Guinea-Bissau: Overseas Aid

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much humanitarian assistance his Department has provided to Guinea-Bissau in the last financial year. [261897]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Details on the Department for International Development's (DFID) bilateral expenditure are contained in the DFID publication 'Statistics on International Development'. This publication is available in the Library and online at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

In 2007-08 DFID provided £1,003 of assistance to Guinea-Bissau.

Iraq and Afghanistan

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what scheme of compensation exists for his Department's officials injured in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [261848]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) staff are covered for injury or death when working in hostile environments through the standard benefits of the Civil Service Pension Scheme. These are:

a death benefit lump sum of two or three times annual salary, depending on scheme membership;

payment of widower's or eligible partner's pension (depending on the pension scheme);

injury benefit to bring the employee's income up to a guaranteed level if they are injured while on duty. It may be paid to their dependants if the employee is killed on duty.

In addition, for staff working in dangerous locations:

DFID indemnifies existing life or personal accident insurance policies to maximum limit of £300,000 for life insurance and £55,188 for personal accident;

DFID acts as its own insurer for staff with or without existing life/personal accident insurance policies, working in or visiting dangerous locations. There is no defined list of dangerous locations—DFID makes judgments on the merits of individual cases. The compensation limit is up to four times annual salary, paid as an "ex-gratia" payment.

Pakistan: Internally Displaced Persons

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will take steps to assist the work of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to provide humanitarian assistance to people displaced within Pakistan. [261899]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimated, at the beginning of March, that 372,000 people had been displaced in Pakistan as a result especially of conflict and insecurity in the areas of the country bordering Afghanistan. The Department for International Development (DFID) has so far provided £1 million to the UN and a further £1 million to the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) to support their work in dealing with the humanitarian consequences of this displacement. This funding has been used in particular to provide shelter, water and sanitation, food, social protection and health care. The UN and ICRC have recently released new appeals, seeking additional funding. We are considering these carefully and expect to commit additional resources in the next few weeks.

An estimated 1.7 million Afghan refugees remain in Pakistan. DFID approved £1 million to UNHCR for assisted Afghan refugee repatriation in 2008.

St. Helena: Tourism

John Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his estimate is of the potential annual income from tourism to St. Helena in a period of 20 years following the construction of an airport on the island. [260316]

Mr. Michael Foster: The 2005 Feasibility Study, which is in the public domain, estimated annual revenues of between £1 million and £33 million from tourism up to a period of 20 years after the opening of an airport.

Sudan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of reports of the expulsion of aid workers from Darfur. [261900]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimates that the recent directive by the Government of Sudan to expel 13 non-governmental organisations (NGOs) could reduce the delivery of humanitarian assistance in Darfur by 50 per cent. Over 1 million Darfuris may lose access to drinking water, 1.1 million may not receive food aid, and 1.5 million could lose access to basic health care. OCHA believes that the expulsions would

"fundamentally undermine the operational capacity of the UN".

The UK ambassador is pressing the Government of Sudan to reverse this decision, and the UN Secretary-General and the European Commission have both made public statements to this effect. The UK is in close touch with the NGOs affected, as well as with the UN and other partners. We will continue to monitor developments closely and seek to ensure continued humanitarian assistance for the people of Darfur.

Trade Agreements: International Co-operation

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made on the G20 pledge to agree the modalities of a world trade agreement by the end of 2008; what assessment he has made of the prospects for completion of the Doha round in 2009; and if he will make a statement. [251225]

Mr. Thomas: Although the Prime Minister and UK Ministers worked tirelessly in support of a successful outcome to the Doha Development Agenda negotiations, WTO director general, Pascal Lamy confirmed at the Trade Negotiating Council (TNC) on 17 December that it would no longer be possible to achieve agriculture and non-agricultural market access (industrial goods) modalities by the end of 2008.

The current negotiating texts, however, do provide a good basis for future negotiations. In 2009, our priority is to work towards ministerial agreement of modalities; we will continue to work to achieve this.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he plans to answer Question 251225, tabled on 21 January 2009, on the Doha round of world trade talks. [261944]

Mr. Thomas: The answer to question 251225 has been issued.

Zimbabwe: Malnutrition

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of levels of malnutrition in Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [261463]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The most recent nutritional assessment in Zimbabwe was conducted by UNICEF in November 2008. This highlighted the seriousness of the situation and the clear need for food aid. It also showed that there is considerable resilience in the Zimbabwe population. The proportion of children under age five who are underweight was estimated at 17 per cent., a rate that has not changed since 2003; while chronic malnutrition has slightly declined by 2 per cent. to 27 per cent. The

number of acutely malnourished children is increasing but at 4.8 per cent. remains below internationally recognised emergency levels (10 per cent.) across the country.

There are several important reasons for this resilience, notably the following:

Many Zimbabwean households receive remittances from household members working abroad.

There is a culture of children eating available food first while as many as a third of adults will go with one or fewer meals in a day.

A high contraceptive prevalence rate has led to smaller family sizes.

The main reason, however, for malnutrition levels being less high than might be expected is likely to be the enormous food aid programme that has fed seven million people in February. A sustained feeding programme will be needed through the next growing season in order to ensure nutritional status is protected and even improved.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the number of people in Zimbabwe who are reliant upon international food aid; and if he will make a statement. [261464]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: UN figures suggest that 7 million people will have received food aid in Zimbabwe by February 2009. The next harvest—which will be collected in April—is likely to be slightly better for those who managed to plant seeds. However, as a result of an NGO ban during the election period last year, distribution of agricultural inputs was delayed and some people were unable to access the fertiliser they needed for a good crop. While an accurate estimate of the harvest will be done in March, early projections suggest a similar scale of food insecurity is anticipated in 2009-10 with a peak before next year's harvest.

The NGO ban and the failure of the Government of Zimbabwe to import their agreed quota of food have made this a particularly challenging situation. The international community has shown considerable flexibility in ensuring that the basic food needs of the people of Zimbabwe are largely being met but more support will continue to be needed next year.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Business Plans

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he plans to publish his Department's annual corporate plan. [261454]

Andy Burnham: The Department's next annual corporate plan is due to be published in spring 2009.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his Department's entertainment budget was in each of the last five years. [261273]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested by the hon. Member is not readily available from the Department's accounting system. To provide the information would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which trade unions are recognised in his Department. [262077]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In the Department for Culture, Media and Sport the recognised trade unions are the Public and Commercial Services Union and the First Division Association.

Equality

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) when he plans to publish his Department's progress review on work with its public bodies on ensuring that diversity is built into governance regimes; and if he will make a statement; [260778]

(2) when he expects to publish his Department's review on work with its public bodies on ensuring that diversity is built into their governance regimes; and if he will make a statement. [261615]

Andy Burnham: I plan to publish details of the composition of our non-departmental public bodies boards, as part of a Departmental Appointments Plan, in April.

Licensing Laws: Bureaucracy

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what administrative cost reductions his Department has identified which have resulted from the entry into force of the Gambling Act 2005; [261619]

(2) what administrative cost reductions his Department has identified which have resulted from the entry into force of the Licensing Act 2003. [261620]

Mr. Sutcliffe: DCMS continues to take significant steps towards reducing administrative burdens arising from its legislation. The latest simplification plan, the third one produced by DCMS, sets out progress to date and details of the forthcoming measures that will be implemented during 2009. Details can be found at the following web address:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/Simplification_Plan_2008.pdf

DCMS has exceeded its baseline target to deliver a 43 per cent. reduction in administrative burdens. This has been achieved in large part by the changes to the regulatory regimes under the Licensing Act 2003 and the Gambling Act 2005 which consolidated a number of separate pieces of legislation.

With the assistance of an expert panel last year, DCMS carried out a costing exercise of the Gambling Act 2005 using the standard cost model. This was a commitment from the previous plan and looked at the administrative costs of the previous regime compared with the new one established under the Act. It found that the administrative burden of the 2005 Act stands at £17.4 million annually which is a reduction from the baseline of the previous regime which was estimated by PricewaterhouseCoopers to be £74 million annually.

In respect of the Licensing Act 2003, the saving to the industry from reduced administrative burdens, validated by an expert panel including industry representatives, is

about £99 million annually against a baseline established by PricewaterhouseCoopers in May 2005. The 2003 Licensing Act came into full operation in November 2005 and aggregate savings since then exceed £300 million.

Museums and Galleries: VAT

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether the retail prices for entry and guided tours have been reduced as a result of the December 2008 reduction in value added tax in *(a)* the Wallace Collection, *(b)* the Victoria and Albert Museum, *(c)* the Tate, *(d)* the Royal Armouries Museum, *(e)* Sir John Soane's Museum, *(f)* the Natural History Museum, *(g)* the National Maritime Museum, *(h)* the National Museum of Science and Industry, *(i)* the National Gallery, *(j)* the Geffrye Museum and *(k)* the Horniman Public Museum. [258391]

Andy Burnham: Entrance to the museums listed is free, with the exception of the Tate St. Ives. Services offered by the museums are often free or where charges are made, they have fully reflected the reduction in VAT. Exceptions to this, where the museums have handled the rate change in VAT in different ways are summarised in the following list. The remainder of the museums have either fully passed on the reduction or do not offer or charge for guided tours.

1. Victoria and Albert Museum

The museum consolidated the VAT reduction for paying exhibitions into the ticket groups which it is believes will benefit the most. These are the concession rates for students, the unemployed and 12-17 year olds. Audio guides are supplied under contract by an external company, who have not reduced the unit price.

2. Tate

The Tate has not reduced charges for guided tours where a fee is incurred, as all guided tours are pre-booked. As a result the tours have been previously advertised and invoiced at the pre-VAT reduction price. The cost of changing this negated any reduction that might have been passed on. However, tour prices which would normally have increased in January 2009, were held at 2008 prices. The gallery's audio guides are supplied under contract by an external company, who have not reduced the unit price.

3. National Maritime Museum

The only current admissions charge is for the Peter Harrison Planetarium, where no adjustment has been made for the reduction in VAT as the effect on price was considered too small. The museum decided instead to freeze Planetarium ticket prices for next year. During the most recent paying exhibition, the museum experimented with audio guide pricing and prices were varied on a number of occasions. Since 11 January 2009 the audio guides have been free of charge. Prior to this, where charges were made at varying rates, the price was not adjusted to reflect the reduction in VAT.

4. National Museum of Science and Industry (NMSI)

The museum has applied the VAT reduction to entry charges over £10.00. This includes special exhibitions and IMAX. Audio guides are only available at one of the NMSI's branches, the National Railway Museum, where no adjustment was made for the reduction in VAT as the charge for these is under £10.00.

5. National Gallery

Prices for paying exhibitions have not been reduced as a result of the reduction in VAT. The prior reduction was considered not material and would have produced an unwieldy pricing structure. Instead ticket prices are being held without increase throughout 2009. Guided tours, which are part of the gallery's education programme are exempt from VAT. Audio guides for the main collection are by voluntary donation. A charge is made for audio guides for temporary exhibitions which has not been reduced as a result of the reduction in VAT. The first guide produced following the VAT reduction was an improved product with increased production costs which were not passed on to the public as the charge was held at previous levels.

6. Geffrye Museum

Guided tours and audio guides are charged at a nominal rate and prices have not been reduced as a result of the reduction in VAT, as the effect on price is considered too small.

National Lottery: Complaints

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 25 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 892W, on National Lottery: complaints, what mechanisms are in place to ensure that the National Lottery Commission and Camelot implement lessons learned from complaints handled on a case-by-case basis; and if he will make a statement. [260811]

Barbara Follett: Both the National Lottery Commission and Camelot aim to provide a fair, transparent and accountable procedure for handling complaints from whatever source and by whichever channel of communication they are received. Complaints received by the Commission are logged and considered by a consumer protection team which reports quarterly to the Commissioners. This allows for trends in complaints or unusual cases to be escalated within the Commission and the appropriate action to be taken. As a matter of course, for every complaint received, Camelot reviews whether lessons can be learned and, if practicable, these are then implemented.

Tourism: South West

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* domestic and *(b)* overseas visitors visited (i) North Wiltshire constituency, (ii) Wiltshire and (iii) the South West in each year since 1997; and what the average spend per person per day was in each case. [259409]

Barbara Follett: VisitBritain have advised that, due to changes in the methodology used in the United Kingdom Tourism Survey, the information on domestic visits in the form requested is only available from 2006. Domestic visit figures before this date were collected in a way which is not consistent with the new methodology and are therefore not comparable.

VisitBritain have also advised that information on overseas visits is held from 1999 at a national and regional level but that it is not available at a constituency level.

Therefore, the following table sets out the number of *(a)* domestic and *(b)* overseas visits to (i) Wiltshire and (ii) the South West in each year for which the information is available; and what the average spend per person, per day, was in each case[1]:

Source:

[1] United Kingdom Tourism Survey, which provides details of the number of visits rather than the number of visitors.

	Domestic staying visits (Thousand)		*Domestic spend per visitor per day (£)*		*Inbound staying visits (Thousand)*		*Inbound spend per visitor per day (£)*	
	Wiltshire	*South West*	*Wiltshire*	*South West*	*Wiltshire*	*South West*	*Wiltshire*	*South West*
1999	—	—	—	—	270	1,600	48	42
2000	—	—	—	—	250	1,630	49	42
2001	—	—	—	—	160	1,370	53	40
2002	—	—	—	—	210	1,430	59	46
2003	—	—	—	—	240	1,880	31	41
2004	—	—	—	—	280	2,030	41	43
2005	—	—	—	—	280	2,140	40	49
2006	1,590	20,310	42	47	270	2,230	42	41
2007	1,290	20,460	51	48	280	2,250	46	43

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

14 Tothill Street

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission for how many months the offices at 14 Tothill street have been empty; for what reasons the offices have been empty; and what the cost of *(a)* rent and *(b)* business rates during this period has been. [257197]

Nick Harvey: The building was acquired following a property search to meet a need from the House of Lords for decant space to facilitate the development of the Millbank Island site and a requirement for additional space from the House of Commons. The property search had revealed a dearth of suitable accommodation at that time within an acceptable distance of the Palace of Westminster, 14 Tothill street being the only one available with sufficient space that met the criteria.

The lease commenced in October 2007. It is held by the House of Commons with a memorandum of understanding to cover the House of Lords' use of part of the building and the facilities.

When acquired it had been refurbished by the landlord ready for fitting out, including services, by the tenant. The initial 12 months were rent-free, reflecting the sort of period that would be needed for any tenant to bring the building into beneficial use. Work on the floors to be occupied by the House of Lords is timed to be completed for the return of the House from the summer adjournment and the move of the Law Lords to the new Supreme Court building. A decision will be taken this month on the occupation of the House of Commons' space. The decision will be based on the need to free up 1 Derby Gate for occupation by Members as recommended by the Administration Committee.

The Commons share of the total rent paid to date, including the current quarter, is £2.38 million (including VAT). Business rates are not due until the property is occupied.

Absenteeism

Mr. Swire: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many House of Commons staff were recorded absent for non-medical reasons on *(a)* 2 February 2009 and *(b)* 3 February 2009; what estimate he has made of the (i) cost to the Commission and (ii) number of working hours lost as a result of such absence; and what guidance is issued to staff in respect of absence on those days. [260582]

Nick Harvey: On 2 February 459 staff were recorded as absent from work owing to the adverse weather and the disruption to travel services and 64 were recorded similarly on 3 February. A number of those absent were able to work remotely from home and the House was able to continue sitting with reasonable services provided for Members. The figures do not include absences due to illness, training courses or planned annual leave. Figures for the cost and the number of working hours lost are not available. Managers' attention was drawn to the standing instructions in the Staff Handbook which require staff to make every reasonable effort to get to work during a transport emergency, but give managers discretion to allow special leave where appropriate. The Staff Handbook is available on the parliamentary intranet.

Audio Recordings

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if the House of Commons Commission will place on the Parliamentary *(a)* intranet and *(b)* internet site a sound recording of the debate held on the Motion on Her Majesty's Government on 28 March 1979; and if he will make a statement. [261443]

Nick Harvey: A history area of the website is planned, and this is the sort of material which will be considered for inclusion. In the meantime any hon. Member can obtain an audio copy of the debate from the Parliamentary Recording Unit.

Departmental Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much the House of Commons Commission spent on staff surveys in each of the last five years; and which companies were contracted to carry out the surveys. [260255]

Nick Harvey: The following amounts have been spent on staff surveys in recent years:

	£000
2005-06	39
2006-07	44
2007-08	34
2008-09 (to date)	51

Detailed figures for earlier years are no longer held, in line with the House's data retention policies. The contracted work has been undertaken by Towers Perrin; Whitmuir Management Consultants and Empathica.

Parliamentary Education Unit

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what materials are produced by the Parliamentary Education Service for *(a)* schools and *(b)* individual pupils; what publications are planned during the next year; and if he will make a statement. [261447]

Nick Harvey: The Education Service produces a range of materials about Parliament, the work of Members (of both Houses), and political literacy generally. All resources are provided free to schools. While many of the materials are suitable for use by individual pupils, they are primarily used in the classroom. One publication targeted at pupils directly is the young person's guide entitled "The Houses of Parliament", which is distributed to all school-aged visitors taking a tour of Parliament.

Teaching resources currently in print include a range of different booklets targeted at pupils from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 5 (covering ages seven to 18). There is also a set of four films on DVD, including the award-winning "Democracy? You Decide" and "You've Got the Power". The latter has just been updated and is available with a teacher's booklet for three age groups. It is also being made available on Parliament's YouTube channel

www.youtube.com/UKParliament

The Education Service relaunched its website

www.parliament.uk/education

in October 2008. This provides a variety of resources which can be used online and also downloaded, including all the printed publications together with information pages, lesson plans, films, virtual tours of Parliament, games and activities, and podcasts. Users can also subscribe to a monthly electronic newsletter. The Education Service will provide materials on request to Members to support their work with schools.

Plans for the next financial year include the provision of a new set of printed publications to replace and consolidate the existing booklets which have been in use for a number of years. The new publications are being designed to support more directly the citizenship and politics curricula. New content is also being commissioned for the website, including interactive games. There are also plans to replace the films and other content following the next general election.

Security

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the average length of service is of the *(a)* police officers and *(b)* security officers employed in the Palace of Westminster; and if he will make a statement. [261423]

Nick Harvey: The average length of police service of those Metropolitan Police officers currently serving at the Palace of Westminster is 24 years.

The average length of service of security officers and security officer managers currently employed by the Metropolitan Police Service at the Palace of Westminster is 11.8 years.

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many armed police officers of each rank *(a)* are employed and *(b)* were employed on average in each year since 2001 in (i) the Palace of Westminster and (ii) the Parliamentary estate. [261477]

Nick Harvey: We do not disclose the exact disposition of our Security operation. The security work force is regularly reviewed by the parliamentary authority.

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission where positions for *(a)* police officers, *(b)* armed police officers and *(c)* security officers employed on the Parliamentary estate are advertised. [261576]

Nick Harvey: Vacancies for all police officers and security officers on the parliamentary estate, for all duties, are advertised to serving Metropolitan Police Service staff and officers internally and, when appropriate, externally in suitable security and police-related media. Information can be accessed at sites such as

www.met.police.uk/careers/policestaff-vacancies

and

www.AllPolicejobs.co.uk

Vote Bundle

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many *(a)* members of the public and *(b)* public libraries purchased the Vote Bundle in each of the last two years; what the retail price of the Vote Bundle per printed page is; and if he will make a statement. [261446]

Nick Harvey: No public libraries or members of the public take copies of the Vote Bundle either on subscription or on standing order. The retail price of the Vote Bundle is 18p per printed page.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Agriculture: Planning Permission

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of the area of farmland of *(a)* grade 1 (excellent), *(b)* grade 2 (very good), *(c)* grade 3a (good), *(d)* grade 3b (moderate), *(e)* grade 4 (poor) and *(f)* grade 5 (very poor) in England taken for development in each of the last 10 years. [262114]

Mr. Iain Wright: Annual information on the area of agricultural land in hectares changing to a developed use in England from 1996 is given in the following table:

	Area of agricultural land (hectares)
1996	6,260
1997	5,280
1998	5,620
1999	n/a
2000	5,280
2001	4,660
2002	3,940
2003	5,990
2004	2,690
2005	4,140
2006	2,910

There is no information available on changes in land use for Wales, nor on how much of the above changes were from each grade of agricultural land.

Information for 1999 is thought to be understated and 'not fit for purpose' and has not been published.

Council Housing: Greater London

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 540-01W, on council housing: Greater London, when she expects the new analytical model to be in use by her Department; and if she will make a statement. [261664]

Mr. Iain Wright: We expect the housing need analytical model to be in use within Communities and Local Government by autumn 2009.

Council Housing: Rents

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what average changes in the level of rents have been decided by local housing authorities for 2009-10. [261650]

Mr. Iain Wright: This information is not yet available.

The Minister for Housing announced on 6 March that Communities and Local Government will shortly be consulting local authorities on a reduced national average guideline rent increase of 3.1 per cent. for 2009-10. This halves the existing national increase of 6.2 per cent. in recognition of the current difficult economic times. Authorities that reduce their rent increases in response to our offer will be compensated through the subsidy system.

We have also already committed to looking again at the 2010-11 national guideline rent increase in the light of circumstances closer to the start of that financial year.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the terms of reference of her Department's review of council housing finance and rents policy are; and who is undertaking the review. [261995]

Mr. Iain Wright: The review of council housing finance and rents policy is a joint review between HM Treasury and the Department of Communities and Local Government. It was launched by Ministers in March 2008 and the terms of reference were agreed with stakeholders at that event.

The full text of the terms of reference is available on the CLG website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/housing/decenthomes/councilhousingfinance/housingfinancereview

Briefly, these are:

To develop a sustainable, long-term system for financing council housing, one that is consistent with wider housing policy, including the establishment of a regulator of social housing.

To inform the annual HRA subsidy determinations in the remaining two years of the current spending period;

To inform a policy framework for rents and standards for the regulator of social housing;

To consider options for the future of the subsidy system including rents policy and to inform the next spending review;

To commission research to support the review.

The terms of reference are underpinned by a set of guiding principles which seek to improve tenant empowerment, increase flexibility and self-determination (where appropriate) for local authorities, and ensure that rents remain affordable for all social tenants while maximising the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the services provided by their landlords.

Council Tax: Rents

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average council tax bill per resident issued by each county council in England was in 2008-09. [261567]

John Healey: County councils do not issue council tax bills themselves. They do, however, levy a precept on lower tier authorities who then collect the council tax on their behalf.

Details of the county council's own average council tax requirement (in £) per resident of each county council in England for 2008-09 are shown in the following table. These do not include the council tax requirement of the lower tier authorities or any other authorities that precept on the lower tier authorities.

County	*Average council tax requirement (£)*
Bedfordshire	408.12
Buckinghamshire	435.36
Cambridgeshire	349.88
Cheshire	397.45
Cornwall	'368.82
Cumbria	'394.73
Derbyshire	345.17
Devon	403.75
Dorset	460.72
Durham	311.27
East Sussex	438.13
Essex	397.63
Gloucestershire	'388.31
Hampshire	389.31
Hertfordshire	'446.90
Kent	384.89
Lancashire	351.94
Leicestershire	345.40

County	Average council tax requirement (£)
Lincolnshire	[1]338.97
Norfolk	[1]378.48
North Yorkshire	380.68
Northamptonshire	[1]322.44
Northumberland	[1]300.45
Nottinghamshire	378.70
Oxfordshire	[1]411.55
Shropshire	376.89
Somerset	368.57
Staffordshire	338.62
Suffolk	[1]379.23
Surrey	471.90
Warwickshire	408.50
West Sussex	[1]456.57
Wiltshire	396.47
Worcestershire	366.70

[1] Counties responsible for funding the fire service for their county area; in the remaining counties the fire service is the responsibility of a separate authority and is funded by a separate council tax precept that is not included in these figures.

The data are calculated from the council tax requirement as stated on the authorities' Budget Requirement form for 2008-09 submitted to Communities and Local Government divided by the mid-2007 population estimates.

Councillors: Arun

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1072W, on councillors: Arun, if she will place in the Library a copy of the Code of Data Matching Practice. [262653]

Mr. Khan: A copy of the Audit Commission's Code of Data Matching Practice has been placed in the Library.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department spent on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* food in each of the last five years. [261164]

Mr. Khan: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Households

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households there are in the UK; and how many are classified as *(a)* retired, *(b)* non-retired and *(c)* non-retired with children. [261020]

Mr. Iain Wright: The latest estimates based on 2008 Office for National Statistics Labour Force Survey data are:

	Number (million)
Total number of households in the UK	25.7
Retired households	6.5
Non-retired households	19.2
Non-retired with children aged 0 to 15	6.6

Retired households are defined as those whose household reference person is retired.

Housing Revenue Accounts

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether an equality impact assessment has been undertaken on the Housing Revenue Account subsidy. [261197]

Mr. Iain Wright: An equality impact assessment has not been carried out on the long established housing revenue account subsidy system.

The housing finance review is currently considering future arrangements and options for financing council housing. The Government want to see everyone in a decent home at affordable rents and at an affordable cost. An equality impact assessment will be considered as part of the review process.

Housing: Standards

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment she has made of the effects of the bringing forward of capital spending announced in the pre-Budget report 2008 on the *(a)* Decent Homes programme, *(b)* provision of social rented housing and *(c)* numbers of repairs to council house stock; and what progress has been made against the objective of assisting key regeneration and housing infrastructure projects. [261515]

Mr. Iain Wright: In the pre-Budget report (PBR) we announced additional brought forward expenditure to sustain and accelerate the Decent Homes programme in 2009-10. Significant elements of this will support expenditure above existing national budgets provided to schemes previously identified by partners in the arm's length management organisation and transfer programmes. Additional brought forward capital, up to a maximum total value of £100 million, will be available to ALMOs in 2009-10 and the HCA has written to ALMO chief executives on the process for accessing this.

We also announced that £175 million would be brought forward from 2010-11 for major repairs to council housing stock. CLG has written separately to councils and ALMO chief executives on the process for accessing this resource. CLG and the HCA are currently reviewing bids for funding so no assessment of the effects of the bringing forward of capital spending can be made yet.

The PBR also brought funds of £150 million from 2010-11 into 2009-10 within the Homes and Communities Agency's Affordable Housing Programme (AHP). These funds will be utilised next year in the delivery of social rented homes within the overall AHP.

Infrastructure Planning Commission: Pay

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to pages 9-10 of her Department's publication of January 2009, Annex to the Planning Bill Impact Assessment: Royal Assent, for what reasons the expected remuneration of the chairman of the Infrastructure Planning Commission will be significantly higher than the £150,000 a year originally estimated; and whether the salaries of the deputy chairs will be similarly increased. [259516]

Mr. Iain Wright: The annex to the Planning Bill Impact Assessment: Royal Assent (pp 9-10) makes clear that the higher remuneration

> "reflects the need to recruit a person of sufficient calibre to carry out this challenging role. Recruitment for the IPC's Deputy Chairs, remaining commissioners and CEO will be carried out during 2009. We envisage advertising these roles on ranges broadly consistent with the estimates given the original Impact Assessment. This change falls within the assumed error margin, and the overall assumptions originally made about the cost and size of the IPC and its Secretariat remain valid, and are the best current estimate of size and cost."

Internet: Advisory Services

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent meetings she has had with the Power of Information Task Force to discuss its work. [260655]

Mr. Khan: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has had no such meetings.

Mobile Homes

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many occasions park homes site licences have been revoked as a result of breaches of the provisions of the Mobile Homes Act 1983 on the part of the site owner in the last 10 years. [261050]

Mr. Iain Wright: A site licence may only be revoked if there have been two or more breaches of conditions in the licence. Section 5 of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960 specifies the types of conditions that a local authority can attach to a site licence. That power does not extend to attaching a condition relating to the compliance by the licence holder with the provisions in the Mobile Homes Act 1983. Therefore, no local authority in England would be able to revoke a licence because of a breach of that Act.

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what restrictions are placed on the owners of park home sites on their exclusive supply of bottled gas to site occupants; and if she will make a statement. [261095]

Mr. Iain Wright: There are no restrictions placed on the owners of park home sites on their supply of bottled gas to site occupants.

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress her Department has made on proposals contained in the consultation paper, "A New Approach for Resolving Disputes and to Proceedings Relating to Park Homes" under the Mobile Homes Act 1983. [261428]

Mr. Iain Wright: My Department is currently studying the responses received to the proposals and I intend to announce the way forward shortly.

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to revise the booklet, "Mobile Homes: A Guide for Residents and Site Owners", published by her Department in 2000. [261432]

Mr. Iain Wright: We are shortly publishing a series of park home fact sheets that will be helpful to residents and site owners. They will cover:

> Pitch fees and other charges;
>
> Selling a park home;
>
> Qualifying residents' associations; and
>
> Residents' rights and obligations.

Therefore we have no plans to revise the booklet, "Mobile Homes: A Guide for Residents and Site Owners".

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate she has made of the number of home repossessions which have not taken place as a result of support provided by the Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme; [260609]

(2) how many people have deferred their mortgage interest payments under the Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme. [260610]

Margaret Beckett: We expect the Homeowners Mortgage Support Scheme to be open for business with the first lenders in April now that the Banking Act 2009, which is the legislative vehicle we have used to enable us to do this, has gained Royal Assent (on 12 February). The draft Master Guarantee is currently with lenders. We will publish a full impact assessment when the Master Guarantee Deed has been finalised.

Ordnance Survey: Finance

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what financial return on ordinary activities was expected from Ordnance Survey in the year ending July 2008. [260656]

Mr. Iain Wright: The financial target for the year ended 31 March 2008 was derived from the three-year target for 2004-05 to 2007-08 set down in the Ordnance Survey Framework Document 2004. This target was to achieve no less than 5.5 per cent. per annum return on capital employed ("ROCE"), averaged over a three-year period, with the return defined as surplus on ordinary activities before interest and dividends.

The target figure for ROCE for the year ended 31 March 2009 was increased to a return of not less than 6 per cent.

Ordnance Survey: Visits Abroad

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the ministerial correction of 29 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 3-6MC, on Ordnance Survey: visits abroad, what the purpose was of each foreign visit listed. [262153]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 5 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1436W. The table showing the countries and cities visited by Ordnance Survey in the time period specified along with the purpose for each visit, which was deposited in the Library in response to that question, includes all of the destinations identified in the ministerial correction of 29 January 2009.

In some cases the location listed was an intermediate business stop during a longer journey to other listed destinations.

Planning

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to publish the revised version of planning policy statement 4: Planning for Sustainable Economic Development. [260465]

Mr. Iain Wright: We plan to publish the Government's revised Planning Policy Statement later in the spring.

Playgrounds

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions she has had with local authorities on their provision of play areas. [261633]

Mr. Iain Wright: No recent discussions have been held with local authorities on their provision of play areas. However, the Department of Communities and Local Government's Chief Planning Officer wrote to the Chief Planning Officer of every local authority in December 2008 to draw their attention to the newly published Play Strategy for England, and to set out the role Government would like them to take in supporting its local delivery.

Regional Assemblies

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for the formal termination of regional assemblies. [262669]

Mr. Iain Wright: Government are repealing any legislation relevant to the assemblies as part of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill, which is currently before Parliament and on commencement of that Bill would cease funding any remaining regional assemblies. However, as regional assemblies are constituted by their membership, it is the membership who must decide when they will formally terminate the assembly. The assemblies in the north west and south east regions have already formally terminated themselves.

Regional Development Agencies

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers regional development agencies will have in respect of local planning authorities' local development frameworks when the new regional strategies are implemented. [262040]

Mr. Iain Wright: The regional development agencies will have no new powers in respect of local planning authorities' local development frameworks when the new arrangements for single regional strategies are implemented. In accordance with existing regulations in the Town & Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 (Statutory Instrument 2204) the local authority is already required to consult the RDAs whose areas are in or adjoin that of the LPA during the preparation of a local development framework.

Regional Planning and Development

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether European Regional Development Funds may be drawn upon for road improvement schemes. [261795]

John Healey: The overarching priorities of the English ERDF programmes are to improve regional competitiveness and create jobs. Below these, it is for each individual ERDF Operational Programme (OP) to define its priorities and objectives and describe the types of projects it will support.

Regional Planning and Development: EC Grants and Loans

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her most recent estimate is of the average cost of fire and rescue service attendance at an incident. [262069]

Mr. Khan: Estimates for 2004 suggests that the average cost in respect of attending an incident in England and Wales was £2,289.

Regional Spatial Strategies

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers she has to revoke regional spatial strategies once published. [262692]

Mr. Iain Wright: Under the terms of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 section 10(5) the Secretary of State may at any time revoke an RSS or such parts of an RSS as he or she thinks appropriate if the Secretary of State thinks it necessary or expedient to do so.

Rented Housing

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the proposed percentage change in guideline rents in housing revenue account subsidy is for next year; and what the percentage change has been in each year since 1997. [252629]

Mr. Iain Wright: Housing Revenue Account Subsidy Determinations issued in previous years have not generally provided a percentage for the average national guideline rent increase over the previous year.

The following table provides the average guideline rent increase calculated from figures issued in the 2009-10 determination, and the Department's assessments of average increases in previous years.

	Percentage
2002-03	5.65
2003-04	5.53
2004-05	6.56
2005-06	6.77
2006-07	6.26
2007-08	7.10
2008-09	5.70
2009-10	6.19

Guideline rents are calculated using the rent restructuring formula, a system which commenced in 2002-03.

The Minister for Housing announced on 6 March that Communities and Local Government will shortly be consulting local authorities on a reduced national average guideline rent increase of 3.1 per cent. for 2009-10. This halves the existing national increase of 6.2 per cent. in recognition of the current difficult economic times.

Sleeping Rough

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what methods are used by local authorities to make estimates of numbers of rough sleepers where street counts have not taken place. [261371]

Mr. Iain Wright: As part of the new rough sleeping strategy 'No-one left out' we are clarifying some issues around the counts and bringing in changes that will enable more in-depth reporting of the level and nature of need in different areas.

We are making it clear that the headline figure is not an estimate but the total of the actual counts undertaken during the year.

Social Rented Housing: Construction

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the Government's target is for the number of housing units for social tenants to be built over the next five years. [260806]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government's aspiration is to provide 70,000 affordable homes per year by 2010-11 of which 45,000 are expected to be for social rent. Future targets will be set as part of the next spending review.

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which trade unions are recognised in her Department. [262078]

Mr. Khan: The following trade unions are officially recognised by the Department and its agencies to represent members of staff: the FDA, Prospect, and the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS).

In addition, the Fire Service College, an Executive Agency of the Department, also recognises the General Municipal and Boilermakers Union (GMB) and the Fire Brigades Union (FBU).

Waste Management

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the presentation and handouts produced by the Audit Commission's Director of Studies on the challenges for municipal waste management for the Waste Management Finance Forum on 22 January 2009. [262655]

Mr. Khan: A copy of the presentation to the Waste Management Finance Forum in January 2009 by the Audit Commission's Director of Studies has been placed in the Library.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department's entertainment budget was in each of the last five years. [261281]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department for Work and Pensions does not set a separate budget for entertainment.

Any expenditure which is incurred on entertainment has to be made in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury Handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Such hospitality is normally only extended by Ministers, chief executives or executive members of the departmental board (DB).

Departmental Pay

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much each Minister who has left his Department since May 1997 received in severance pay. [259184]

Jonathan Shaw: Under exemption 12 of the Code of Practice on Access to Government Information, details of individual severance payments are not disclosed in order to protect the privacy of the individual concerned.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether claimants of the planned treatment allowance will be required to prove that they are not taking crack or heroin as a condition of receiving the allowance. [255126]

Mr. McNulty: The measures included in the Welfare Reform Bill currently before Parliament, including the planned treatment allowance, are intended to support problem drug users and help them return to work. Claimants will not be required to be clean to receive treatment allowance but will be required to take steps to address their drug problem as a condition of receiving benefits.

Income Support: Lone Parents

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of lone parents with children aged *(a)* under three, *(b)* three to six and *(c)* over six years old will be moved from income support on to jobseeker's allowance; and when such moves will take place. [255515]

Kitty Ussher: In the White Paper, "Raising Expectations and increasing support: reforming welfare for the future" (Cm 7506, published in December 2008), we said that the next natural step towards a simplified benefit system should be the abolition of income support which would take us to a dual-benefits system based around jobseeker's allowance and employment and support allowance.

Provisions to enable this are included in the current Welfare Reform Bill. Subject to the passage of this legislation and as resources allow, we will consider further the timeframe for taking forward income support abolition.

There are currently around 460,000 lone parents on income support with a youngest child aged less than seven, around 230,000 with a youngest child aged nought

to two, and around 230,000 with a youngest child aged three to six. We are unable to predict accurately how many lone parents may move from income support to jobseeker's allowance when income support is abolished. Even in the case when income support is abolished there are no plans to require single parents with children under 7 to take up employment, even if they are receiving jobseeker's allowance.

As a result of the provisions of the Social Security (Lone Parents and Miscellaneous) Regulations 2008, lone parents with a child aged seven or over will no longer be able to claim income support solely on the grounds of being a lone parent.

Based on internal analysis carried out for departmental planning purposes, it has been estimated that around 45 per cent. of lone parents with older children moved off income support as part of these changes will make a claim for jobseeker's allowance. Others may apply for appropriate benefits such as employment and support allowance.

The following table shows the number of lone parents with older children on income support who we expect to apply for jobseeker's allowance in each quarter to May 2011.

Quarter ending	*Number of lone parents moving from income support to jobseeker's allowance*
2009	
May	23,200
August	9,200
November	16,500
2010	
February	11,150
May	14,900
August	18,700
November	6,600
2011	
February	35,300
May	17,700

Notes:
1. Figures based on internal assumptions and analysis of DWP administrative data.
2. Figures rounded to the nearest 50.
3. Existing claimants with children aged 14-15 will begin to be moved off income support from March 2009. Existing claimants with children aged seven to eight will have their entitlement ended between January and April 2011.
4. The total number of lone parents moved from income support to jobseeker's allowance exceeds the number of lone parents with children aged seven and over currently on income support as it includes lone parents with younger children who reach age seven over the period.
5. There will be a continuing number of lone parents moved off income support and on to jobseeker's allowance after May 2011 resulting from those on income support whose children reach age seven.

Official Cars

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what cars are *(a)* owned, *(b)* leased, *(c)* hired and *(d)* otherwise regularly used by his Department, broken down by cubic capacity of engine. [250132]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested about *(a)* owned *(b)* leased and *(c)* hired cars is provided in the following table.

In relation to *(d)* cars otherwise regularly used, I would refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport on 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 10W, about cars provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency.

Capacity (cc)	*(a) Owned*	*(b) Leased*[1]	*(c) Hired*[2]
1.0 to 1.3	0	92	2,300
1.4 and 1.5	0	308	6,464
1.6 and 1.7	0	1,344	9,260
1.7 upwards	0	1,239	3,420
Undefined	0	10	273
Total	0	2,993	21,717

[1] The figures provided in the table on leased cars represent the number of cars leased in the period April 2008 to 21 January 2009.
[2] Car hire figures cover the period April to November 2008, the most recent month for which figures are available.

Pension Credit

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of pension credit claimants have been *(a)* overpaid and *(b)* underpaid (i) once, (ii) twice, (iii) three times and (iv) four times or more since their claims began. [257204]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Published information on fraud and error in the benefit system is available for download from:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd2/fraud_error.asp

Pensioners: Social Security Benefits

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to inform pensioners about the Government support to which they are entitled. [260801]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We are making every effort to ensure that people are aware of and claim their entitlement. The Pension, Disability and Carers Service will continue to promote take-up of benefits by those entitled through: data matching to identify eligible non-recipients, home visits for vulnerable customers, a simple claim process, targeted regional marketing and media campaigns and ever closer working with partner organisations.

Winter Fuel Payments: Kingston Upon Thames

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in the Royal Borough of Kingston-upon-Thames *(a)* who reached the age of 80 in 2008 and *(b)* in total have not qualified for winter fuel payments because their birthday was later than 15 September 2008. [260684]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Winter fuel payments of £250 are available to individuals who are aged 60 or over by the set qualifying week (15-21 September for winter 2008-09). Where an individual is aged 80 or over in this qualifying week, they may be eligible to receive an amount of £400 for 2008-09.

Information regarding the number of people in the boroughs of Richmond-upon-Thames and Kingston-upon-Thames who have not qualified for the higher

payment of £400 due to their 80th birthday being later than the week commencing 15 September, is not available. I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave on 25 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 790W. This answer gives information about the position in Great Britain.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received representations from the Government of Pakistan on the use of unmanned aerial vehicles flying out of Afghanistan into Pakistani airspace to fire missiles at targets within Pakistan in the last 12 months. [259986]

Bill Rammell: The Government of Pakistan has raised the issue with my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary. The Foreign Secretary has been clear that allegations over US unmanned aerial vehicles flying in Pakistani airspace is a matter that should be discussed between the US and Pakistani Governments.

Anti-Semitism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who attended the London conference on combating anti-Semitism; if he will place in the Library the report produced by the conference; and if he will make a statement. [259055]

Gillian Merron: More than 200 overseas parliamentarians and experts attended the London Conference on combating anti-Semitism, organised by the Inter-Parliamentary Coalition for Combating Anti-Semitism (ICCA) and co-hosted by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). We have asked the ICCA to place a copy of the final declaration in the House of Commons Library. The FCO was pleased to co-host the second day of this successful conference and looks forward to working with participants to take forward strategies to monitor and tackle anti-Semitism.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what records his Department holds on reports of anti-Semitism in other countries; and if he will make a statement. [259057]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) posts report on anti-Semitism and other forms of discrimination overseas. Details of these are published in the FCO Annual Report on Human Rights. We condemn anti-Semitism wherever and whenever it occurs and are working with the International Coalition Combating Anti-Semitism to monitor and tackle anti-Semitism in the UK and overseas.

BBC World Service

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what criteria were used to determine the specification of countries where there is an absence of free and independent media for the purposes of the 2007 Operational Agreement with the BBC World Service. [258926]

Caroline Flint: The Operating Agreement, which came into effect for the first time in 2007 following the establishment of the BBC Trust, is between the BBC World Service and the BBC Trust. It is not the document governing the relationship between the BBC World Service and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). The FCO was therefore not involved in deciding on criteria used to determine the specification of countries within this document.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the management of the BBC World Service on its features programming in its broadcasts across its vernacular services. [259752]

Caroline Flint: The content of programming is a decision for the BBC World Service as it has complete editorial independence. The BBC World Service updates the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) on any significant changes to its features programming in the regular review meetings between the BBC World Service and the FCO.

British Overseas Territories: Conservation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department has taken to investigate the funding requirements for conservation and ecosystem management in the British Overseas Territories. [260708]

Gillian Merron: The Inter Departmental Ministerial Group on Biodiversity, attended by Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Department for International Development Ministers, with the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) observing, recently tasked the JNCC to produce a strategy paper for the Government's engagement on biodiversity issues in the overseas territories. The strategy paper will address funding requirements for conservation and ecosystem management in the overseas territories and will include a recommended multi-year programme of expenditure.

British Virgin Islands: Nature Conservation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what endangered flora and fauna are indigenous to the British Virgin Islands. [260714]

Gillian Merron: The International Union for Conservation of Nature red-list identifies the indigenous flora and fauna of the British Virgin Islands, listed in the following table, to be endangered.

Scientific name	*Common name*
Anolis roosevelti	Culebra Island Giant Anole, Roosevelt's Giant Anole
Cyclura pinguis	Anegada Ground Iguana, Anegada Island Iguana, Anegada Rock Iguana
Dermochelys coriacea	Leatherback, Leathery Turtle, Luth, Trunkback Turtle
Epinephelus itajara	Goliath Grouper, Jewfish

Scientific name	*Common name*
Eretmochelys imbricata	Hawksbill Turtle
Calyptranthes kiaerskovii	None
Acacia anegadensis	Pokemeboy
Cordia rupicola	None
Machaonia woodburyana	None
Metastelma anegadense	None
Leptocereus quadricostatus	Sebucan
Bufo lemur	Puerto Rican Crested Toad, Puerto Rican Toad
Caretta caretta	Loggerhead
Chelonia mydas	Green Turtle
Epinephelus striatus	Nassau Grouper
Maytenus cymosa	Caribbean Mayten
Guaiacum officinale	Commoner Lignum Vitae, Guaiac Tree
Calyptranthes thomasiana	Thomas' Lidflower
Zanthoxylum thomasianum	St. Thomas Prickly-Ash
Eleutherodactylus schwartzi	Virgin Islands Coqui

Burma: Ethnic Groups

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Burmese authorities on the treatment of the Karen people. [257095]

Bill Rammell: The regular reports of human rights abuses in Karen state, in particular in areas where conflict causes continuous fear and suffering, are deplorable and highlight the need for a comprehensive and just settlement of Burma's ethnic conflicts that will support an enduring peace.

Our ambassador in Rangoon regularly raises with the Burmese regime the need for the full and fair participation of ethnic nationalities in the political process and for a fair peace settlement that would bring an end to the conflict. Our ambassador calls on the Burmese regime to work with the UN, including the International Labour Organisation and the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Burma, Tomas Ojea Quintana, to investigate abuses. We also use every opportunity to raise the issue in the international arena, including the UN General Assembly.

A just and inclusive political settlement lies at the core of a prosperous and peaceful future for all the peoples of Burma and there can be little prospect of national reconciliation without genuine recognition of political, economic and social rights of ethnic minority groups, including the Karen.

Cayman Islands: Crimes of Violence

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what incidents of violent crime took place on the Cayman Islands in each of the last five years. [260709]

Gillian Merron: The Royal Cayman Islands Police Service (RCIPS) has provided the following statistics on incidents of violent crime for the period 2005-08 (the RCIPS keeps statistics for four years only):

	Number
2008	680
2007	1,079
2006	877
2005	732

Cayman Islands: Drugs

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps have been taken to combat drug trafficking in the Cayman Islands. [260679]

Gillian Merron: There is a continued state of vigilance in the Cayman Islands, with increased co-operation and intelligence-sharing with regional police forces and security agencies in the US. The Royal Cayman Islands Police Service has enhanced its maritime assets with the procurement of a 65 foot all-purpose Defender patrol boat and two 38 foot fast interceptor vessels. A further 65 foot all-purpose vessel is expected to arrive in the coming weeks.

Cayman Islands: National Income

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much the Cayman Islands gross domestic product per capita was in each of the last five years. [260710]

Gillian Merron: The Cayman Islands Economics and Statistics Office has provided the following statistics on gross domestic product per capita for the period 2003-07, which are the most recent figures available:

	CI$
2007	40,200
2006	39,100
2005	39,900
2004	38,100
2003	36,800

The current £/CI$ exchange rate is 0.86.

Cayman Islands: Nature Conservation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what endangered species there are in the Cayman Islands; and what steps are being taken to promote conservation and preserve levels of biodiversity there. [260713]

Gillian Merron: The International Union for Conservation of Nature has identified the species listed in the following table, which are found in the Cayman Islands, as endangered species. The management and protection of the environment has been devolved to the individual Overseas Territories. However, we recognise that there are capacity limitations in the Overseas Territories and that they need help to address conservation issues. The Government support the Overseas Territories by

providing funding through the Overseas Territories Environment Programme, a joint Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development funded programme, and through the Darwin Initiative, a Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs funded programme, to encourage the conservation and preservation of biodiversity in the Cayman Islands.

Scientific names	*Common names*
Cerion nanus	None
Dermochelys coriacea	Leatherback, leathery turtle, luth, trunkback turtle
Epinephelus itajara	Goliath grouper, jewfish
Eretmochelys imbricata	Hawksbill turtle
Cyclura lewisi	Cayman Island ground iguana, Grand Cayman blue iguana, Grand Cayman iguana
Caretta caretta	Loggerhead
Chelonia mydas	Green turtle
Epinephelus striatus	Nassau grouper
Pterodroma hasitata	Black-capped petrel
Swietenia mahagoni	American mahogany, Cuban mahogany, small-leaved mahogany, West Indian mahogany

China: Press Freedom

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what consideration he gave to designating *(a)* China and *(b)* Russia as countries where there is an absence of free and independent media for the purposes of his Department's 2007 operational agreement with the BBC World Service. [259367]

Caroline Flint: In the operating agreement, signed between the BBC World Service and BBC Trust (not an agreement with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office), China and Russia are included as

'developing markets in which the BBC World Service should provide international and regional news, complementing local broadcasters, targeting opinion formers and decision makers in English and local languages'.

The extent to which free and independent media exist in a country is always taken into consideration.

Departmental Absenteeism

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff of his Department were recorded absent for non-medical reasons on *(a)* 2 February 2009 and *(b)* 3 February 2009; what estimate he has made of the (i) cost to his Department and (ii) number of working hours lost as a result of such absence; and what guidance his Department issued to staff in respect of absence on those days. [260581]

Gillian Merron: The number of Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff recorded as absent due to non-medical reasons on 2 and 3 February 2009 is as follows:

2 February 200—157 officers

3 February 2009—116 officers

These figures are for UK civil servants only and include staff on pre-approved annual leave, administrative leave and special paid leave. The figures exclude any officers who were absent on the dates specified due to certified or uncertified sick leave, special unpaid leave or maternity leave.

In the event of adverse weather and disruption to transport, we expect staff to make every effort to attend their normal place of work where it is safe to do so (taking account of advice from the emergency services). When severe weather prevents staff travelling to work, we expect them to discuss the following options with their line managers:

working at another FCO site

working from home

if working flexi-time, recording some or all of the time as flexi leave

if not working flexi-time, making up the hours (e.g. staggered hours)

taking annual leave for the period of non-attendance.

Departmental Finance

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the budget for his Department's Tactical Delivery Fund is for 2008-09; what the proposed budget is for 2009-10; how many projects were supported by the fund in 2008-09; what type of projects may be financed through the fund; and which projects in the USA have been supported by the fund in 2008-09, broken down by *(a)* subject matter, *(b)* location and *(c)* cost. [259215]

Gillian Merron: The 2008-2009 budget for the Tactical Delivery Fund is £350,000. The budget for 2009-2010 has not yet been finalised. At the end of February 2009 23 projects have been supported by the fund in 2008-2009.

The Tactical Delivery Fund supports the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Departmental Strategic Objective "promoting a low carbon, high growth global economy." Projects included funding or part funding visits by UK experts overseas and by overseas policy makers to the UK, reports, seminars and other small scale public diplomacy.

The Tactical Delivery Fund has not been used to fund projects in the US in 2008-09.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department received in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* from January to July 2008. [255497]

Gillian Merron: The available statistical information regarding freedom of information requests received by Departments can be found on the Ministry of Justice website at

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformation.htm

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many and what percentage of letters sent by his Department were given to *(a)* the Royal Mail and *(b)* another postal services provider for delivery in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [259961]

Gillian Merron: Of the 159,791 letters sent by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in the last 12 months, 158,591 (99.25 per cent.) were given to the Royal Mail and 1,200 (0.75 per cent.) were given to another postal service supplier.

Departmental Public Relations

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend East, (James Duddridge) of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 219-20W, on departmental public relations, in what area of work the external public relations firms were engaged; and for what reasons in-house communications staff were not used in each instance. [249382]

Gillian Merron: Public relations firms were engaged in providing professional services such as project implementation, engaging with local media contacts and providing local market expertise. These services are used to enhance existing resources.

Hill and Knowlton provide such services to UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) across the Asia-Pacific region to promote the UK as an inward investment location. In the financial year 2007-08, UKTI calculated that for every £1 spent £8 in PR value was generated for the British economy.

Lexis Public Relations were used in the United States. These projects supported British business overseas in the US and established the UK as a high value destination for direct foreign investment.

Trimedia are a local Moroccan newspaper used to advertise a local job at our embassy in Rabat in 2006.

Departmental Travel Information

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how frequently his Department *(a)* reviews and *(b)* updates its travel advice to British citizens. [258495]

Gillian Merron: Foreign and Commonwealth Office travel advice is reviewed on a monthly basis and is updated following any incident that might affect British nationals travelling or living in the affected area.

It is revised and re-issued at least every three months (or monthly for countries with travel warnings) and can be updated as often as necessary in a developing crisis.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library the most recent version of his Department's euro changeover plan. [250596]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's euro conversion plan is dated November 2004. The most recent review was in April 2007.

The plan has been made available to members of the public in response to specific requests. A copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Foreign Policy

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 21 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1527W, on international relations, for what reasons he did not provide the information requested in the question; and if he will now do so. [256447]

David Miliband: We are constantly expanding our dialogue on international institutions with a range of countries, not least because of the London summit. The original list of countries has been overtaken as part of our expanding dialogue.

Freedom of Information

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Freedom of Information Act 2000 requests to his Department have been refused on the ground of cost; and how many such refusals have subsequently been reversed following agreement that the person making the request meet those costs in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* up to July 2008. [256526]

Gillian Merron: Quarterly and annual statistics on Freedom of Information (FOI) are published by the Ministry of Justice on their website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/freedomofinformationquarterly.htm.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) applied Section 12 of the FOI Act to 119 requests in 2006, 215 requests in 2007 and 93 requests between 1 January 2008 and 30 June 2008 on grounds of cost.

No requests have been processed upon receipt of a payment for the costs. However, where a request is refused on grounds of cost, the FCO encourages requesters to refine their request so that a response could be provided within the cost limit.

Group of Twenty: London Summit

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has budgeted for hospitality to be provided to *(a)* Secretaries of State and Ministers, *(b)* civil servants, *(c)* special advisers, *(d)* foreign heads of state and government and *(e)* ministers of foreign Governments at the G20 summit in London in April 2009. [259364]

Gillian Merron: The planning for the London Summit in April 2009 is still being formulated. Any hospitality offered by the Government during the Summit will be commensurate with the nature of the occasion.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he plans to use stocks of *(a)* champagne, *(b)* white wine, *(c)* red wine, *(d)* beer and *(e)* spirits from the Government Wine Cellar for the G20 summit in London in April 2009. [259369]

Gillian Merron: Stocks from the Government Hospitality wine cellar will be used as part of the hospitality offered to visiting participants during the London Summit in April 2009. No decisions have yet been taken as to which items might be served.

Group of Twenty: London Summit

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which external consultancies his Department has engaged to advise on the G20 Summit in London in April 2009; and what the value of the contract is in each case. [258929]

Gillian Merron: External consultancies engaged to advise on the G20 in April 2009 are as follows:

Feltech/MRG, an event production company, has been hired to help stage the Summit. The contract is worth £5,941,597, excluding VAT.

Start Creative, an external design agency was procured via the Central Office of Information (COI). The contract is worth £40,550 excluding VAT but includes COI fees.

A Project Co-ordinator and two events delivery co-ordinators have been hired from PA Consulting. The predicted cost to 2 April 2009 is £194,750.

A content developer/writer has also been engaged via COI GovGap. The predicted cost to 2 April 2009 is £27,168.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much has been spent on designing the logo for the G20 Summit in London in April 2009. [258930]

Gillian Merron: The development of the London Summit logo and the creation of the original globe image to overcome copyright issues cost £6,000.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his latest estimate is of the cost of *(a)* establishing and *(b)* operating the website www.londonsummit.gov.uk. [258932]

Gillian Merron: There was no additional cost establishing the London Summit website as it was built on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's existing web platform using existing staff resources.

The London Summit website is updated using existing staff resources seconded from other projects at no additional cost.

We have employed two moderating editors with a background in economics and journalism to assist us with generating and moderating content for the London Summit website. The cost of employing them until 2 April 2009 will be £51,318.75.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which foreign heads of state are expected to visit locations in Britain other than those of the G20 Summit in London in April 2009. [258935]

Gillian Merron: Heads of State have been invited primarily to attend the London Summit on 2 April 2009. President Calderon of Mexico will attend the London Summit during the Mexican State Visit. He is also due to visit Scotland as part of this visit. We are not aware of any other bilateral programmes being undertaken by London Summit participants outside of the Summit programme.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate has been made of the cost of hospitality for the G20 Summit for *(a)* the Prime Minister, *(b)* Secretaries of State and Ministers, *(c)* civil servants, *(d)* special advisers, *(e)* foreign heads of state and *(f)* ministers of foreign Governments. [258942]

Gillian Merron: The planning for the London Summit in April 2009 is still being formulated. Any hospitality offered by the Government during the Summit will be commensurate with the nature of the occasion.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what types of alcoholic drinks will be made available at the G20 Summit in London in April 2009; and what the budget is for each type of alcoholic drink. [259074]

Gillian Merron: The planning for the London Summit in April 2009 is still being formulated. Any hospitality offered by the Government during the Summit will be commensurate with the nature of the occasion.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate has been made of the cost of dinners for heads of state and government at the G20 summit in London in April 2009. [259141]

Gillian Merron: The planning for the London Summit in April 2009 is still being formulated. Any hospitality offered by the Government during the Summit will be commensurate with the nature of the occasion.

Guantanamo Bay: Detainees

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has *(a)* received representations from and *(b)* held discussions with the Government of Ethiopia on the Guantanamo detainee Mr Binyam Mohamed; and if he will make a statement. [256953]

David Miliband: We have not received any representations from the Government of Ethiopia on Mr. Binyam Mohamed's case. We informed the Government of Ethiopia in August 2007 of our decision to seek Mr. Mohamed's release and return to the UK. We have sought to keep the Government of Ethiopia informed on developments in his case.

International Organisations: Finance

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in respect of which international organisations the United Kingdom's subscriptions are paid from the budget of his Department; and how much was paid in subscription to each such organisation in each of the last five years. [254886]

Gillian Merron: The published Resource Accounts of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office provide this information on an annual basis, identifying individual organisations where subscriptions exceed one million pounds per annum. Identifying individual subscriptions paid to international organisations under one million pounds per annum would incur a disproportionate cost. A summary of the information for the last five complete financial years is as follows:

International organisation	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	£000 2007-08
UN Regular Budget	48,457	53,164	57,610	79,201	70,061
Other UN contributions	1,705	2,077	1,858	2,174	2,321
Council of Europe	17,576	18,091	L 18,660	19,018	19,620
North Atlantic Treaty Organisation	18,523	17,154	18,611	18,393	20,962
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development	11,220	8,751	12,249	15,628	12,826
Commonwealth Secretariat	3,503	3,606	4,504	5,153	3,433
Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe	0	0	0	2,804	3,223
Others	4,049	3,609	2,447	1,323	2,215
Total subscriptions	105,033	106,302	115,939	143,656	134,663

Iran: Foreign Relations

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the statement by the UK Permanent Representative to the United Nations broadcast on 21 February on the responsibility of the Iranian government for the deaths of British service personnel in Iraq, what representations were made to the Iranian government at the time this knowledge came into the possession of the British Government; what other actions were *(a)* considered and *(b)* implemented at the time; and if he will make a statement. [259826]

Bill Rammell: We have been aware for some time of Iranian interference in Iraq and in particular Iran's provision of lethal aid to Iraqi militia groups. We have evidence to suggest that a significant proportion of the equipment and armaments used by insurgents against our forces in Iraq was of Iranian origin, or had been transited through Iran.

As Iraq's neighbour Iran should have an important role in helping to build a stable and secure Iraq, but instead Iran is undermining stability by supplying weapons, funding and training to militia groups and through political interference and bribery. This action only serves to undermine security in Iraq and should not be tolerated. Both the Government and the Iraqi Government have raised Iranian interference in Iraq with the Iranian authorities on many occasions. We and the Government of Iraq will continue to send strong messages that it is not in Iran's interest to destabilise southern Iraq.

Kurdistan Workers Party

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has received from the Kurdistan Workers Party on the situation in Turkey. [260095]

Caroline Flint: None. The Kurdistan Workers Party (also known as PKK, Kongra Gel, KGK and Kadek) is a proscribed terrorist organisation in the UK and the EU. The UK rejects the use of violence and terrorism to achieve political aims.

The UK encourages Turkey to implement a comprehensive package to address the economic, political and social situation of its people in the South East of Turkey.

Russia: Press Freedom

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how frequently he meets managers at the BBC World Service; at how many such meetings the political and media environment in Russia has been discussed; and what information his Department provides to the BBC World Service on developments in such environments. [259378]

Caroline Flint: The BBC World Service and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) have a formal cycle of business meetings, which include quarterly meetings between the FCO Director of Communications and the Director, BBC World Service; a programme of regional reviews; an annual meeting between the BBC chairman and the FCO Minister responsible for public diplomacy; and quarterly public diplomacy Board meetings, as well as informal day to day contact. The political and media environment in Russia has been discussed at a number of these meetings.

Sri Lanka: Armed Conflict

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the military capability of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. [259636]

Bill Rammell: Due to the ongoing military hostilities and the lack of independent information emerging from northern Sri Lanka, it is difficult to obtain accurate information on the current capabilities of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

In a statement of 3 February 2009, the Tokyo Co-Chairs (EU, US, Japan and Norway) made clear their view that there remains probably only a short period of time before the LTTE loses control of all areas in the north.

We remain seriously concerned about the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka and the impact on civilians.

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the reported bombardment of designated safe zones in the Mullaitivu district by the Government of Sri Lanka in relation to international humanitarian law. [260156]

Bill Rammell: The on-going military hostilities and the lack of independent information make it difficult to verify reports coming from the conflict in northern Sri Lanka. In a joint statement of 3 February 2009 with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary urged all parties not to fire into or out of the "safe zone". As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has made clear, we condemn the killing of civilians in the strongest possible terms and have urged all parties to the conflict in Sri Lanka to adhere to international humanitarian law and to take action to avoid civilian casualties.

St Helena: Visits Abroad

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the most recent occasion was on which a Government Minister visited the territory of St. Helena; and when a ministerial visit will next take place. [259409]

Gillian Merron: We are not aware of any ministerial visits to St. Helena in recent times and there are currently no plans for such a visit to take place. St. Helena is only accessible by sea with travel to and from London taking a minimum of fourteen days.

Torture

Sir Malcolm Rifkind: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 17 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 682-23W, on British nationality: torture, what consideration his Department has given to breaking down collated data into specific details of alleged mistreatment; and what consideration his Department has given to collating records prior to April 2005. [253461]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office have considered keeping statistics for different types of mistreatment. However in view of the wide range of allegations and the difficulties in classifying individual incidents it was concluded that this exercise would not add meaningful value to the records already held.

Given that no records were collated prior to 1 April 2005 examining the large number of individual case files to collate records would incur a disproportionate cost.

Turkey: Human Rights

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Turkey on Turkish compliance with the decision of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of Varnava and others on persons who disappeared following the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974; and if he will make a statement. [261009]

Caroline Flint: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not raised any missing persons cases recently with his Turkish interlocutors.

The Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus carries out important humanitarian work, identifying and returning the remains of those who lost their lives during this period. We attach great importance to its work and welcome the progress of the committee since its launch in August 2006. The UK contributes to the funding of the programme annually through the EU and through bilateral donations.

Turks and Caicos Islands: Politics and Government

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the political situation in the Turks and Caicos Islands; and if he will make a statement. [260017]

Gillian Merron: On 28 February 2009 Sir Robin Auld, who is leading the Commission of Inquiry into allegations of corruption and other serious dishonesty in relation to members of the Turks and Caicos Islands House of Assembly, submitted an interim report to the Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The interim report is wide ranging and the Governor has said he will need time to reflect on the recommendations and consult UK Ministers before he can make an announcement. He expects this process to take around three weeks.

WALES

Departmental Detergents

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will make it his policy to ensure that no cleaning products or ingredients of cleaning products used by his Department have been tested on animals. [261118]

Mr. Paul Murphy: No cleaning products, or ingredients contained within them, used in my Department have been tested on animals.

Departmental Press

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department has spent on newspapers, magazines and periodicals in each year since 1997. [261249]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The cost of newspapers, magazines and periodicals is recorded alongside the cost of all publications and could not be identified separately.

Departmental Rail Travel

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the cost to his Department was of travel by train by its staff in each year since 1997. [261250]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Having to support all functions from offices in both Cardiff and London, the Wales Office incurs considerable travelling costs. The figures requested are:

	£
2004-05	88,613
2005-06	112,003
2006-07	99,253
2007-08	129,763

We do not hold the details requested for previous years.

Departmental Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much was spent by his Department on staff surveys in 2008; and which companies were contracted to carry out the surveys. [260916]

Mr. Paul Murphy: During 2008 the Wales Office participated in one staff opinion survey undertaken by the Ministry of Justice.

There was no cost to the Wales Office.

Public Opinion

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what expenditure has been incurred by his Department on *(a)* opinion polling, *(b)* focus groups and *(c)* other forms of market research in each year since 1997; what such surveys were commissioned; and what the purpose was of each. [261248]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My Department has not conducted any opinion polling, focus groups or market research since 1999.

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which trade unions are recognised in his Department. [262082]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office recognises the following trade unions:

PCS (the Public and Commercial Services Union); and

FDA (the First Division Association).

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what changes have been made to the estimates of UK carbon dioxide emissions for each year from 1990 to 2006 as a result of the methodological changes that have been adopted since January 2008. [259284]

Joan Ruddock: The 1990-2007 inventory is the latest UK inventory that considers methodological changes in CO_2 emission estimates adopted since January 2008. There have been no major methodological changes affecting CO_2 emission estimates in this inventory. Small changes in the CO_2 inventory have occurred due to changes in reported energy statistics presented in the Digest of UK Energy Statistics and also as a result of introducing EU Emissions Trading Scheme carbon emission factors for some fuels burnt in power stations and refineries. The 1990-2007 inventory will be formally reported to the Framework Convention on Climate Change on 15 April 2009, after which the inventory report, which contains detailed explanations of methodologies, will be available.

Energy: Advisory Services

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many one-stop advice centres have been set-up through the Energy Saving Trust; and how many people have used each. [254123]

Joan Ruddock: The Energy Saving Trust has just begun running a nationwide network of 21 regional Energy Saving Trust Advice Centres (ESTACs). The centres were set up last year with the final advice centre opening in December 2008. The regional advice centres provide a one-stop shop offering consumers a range of free and impartial advice on how to reduce their carbon footprint including energy efficiency, microgeneration and renewable energy, low carbon transport, water efficiency and waste reduction and a range of independent services that will help them action that advice.

The Energy Saving Trust has provided the following table to show the number of customer contacts each centre has had since it opened. This is any interaction where a customer has been provided with advice, which includes all in-bound and outbound calls, responses to Home Energy Checks (HEC) and outreach events. The ESTACs replace the Energy Efficiency Advice Centres (EEAC) which ceased operating once an ESTAC opened up in their region.

These figures are for the early stages of the ESTACs. Once the ESTACs are fully up in running they will be supporting over one million customers annually.

Regional breakdown of customer contacts April 2008 to December 2008

	Total
Energy Efficiency Advice Centres	284,931
Energy Saving Trust Advice Centres	
Anglia[1]	43,803
London	116,276
North East	68,339
Northern Ireland	52,624
Wales	53,361
North West 1 Merseyside and Cheshire	42,009
North West 2 Greater Manchester	45,755
West Midlands	17,171
East Midlands	6,817
North West 3 Cumbria and Lancs	38,381
Yorkshire and Humber 1 N Yorks	10,529
Yorkshire and Humber 2 S and W Yorks	33,098
South West	17,129
South East 1 Berks	24,763
South East 2 Kent	32,617
Eastern 1 Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridge	8,125
Eastern 2 Essex, Herts and Beds	5,938
Total customer contacts	901,466

[1] The advice centre in the Anglian region was replaced after a pilot in October 2008 by the Eastern 1 region.

Energy: Public Sector

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans his Department has to promote energy efficiency in public sector buildings. [259280]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: There are a number of measures to promote energy efficiency in public sector buildings. The Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) is a mandatory carbon cap and trade scheme designed to improve energy efficiency in large, non-energy intensive organisations, including the public sector. It is intended that the CRC will operate from 2010 and achieve carbon reductions of at least $4MtCO_2$ by 2020.

Performance indicators on climate change mitigation were included in the new local government performance framework which was introduced in April 2008. National Indicator (NI) 185, measures the reduction in emissions of carbon dioxide from local authority operations, including local authority owned and occupied buildings. All local authorities are obliged to report their performance against this indicator and 35 local area agreements include targets against the indicator.

For central Government, the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estate targets include a requirement for Departments to reduce their carbon emissions from offices by 12.5 per cent. by 2010 and 30 per cent. by 2020 relative to 1999-2000 levels.

The Government funded Carbon Trust provides a range of services to promote energy efficiency in public sector buildings, in particular by working directly with public sector organisations to identify how they can improve energy efficiency across their operations.

Salix Finance Ltd. is an independent, publicly funded company set up by the Carbon Trust to accelerate public sector investment in energy efficiency technologies to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy bills.

EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which modelling and datasets his Department uses to assess the likely effects on carbon prices of including forest credits in the EU emissions trading scheme; and what recent assessment he has made of such likely effects. [260022]

Joan Ruddock: Forestry credits are not currently included in the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS). The future provisions for land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) in a future climate agreement will be negotiated in Copenhagen in December 2009. In the event that an agreement is reached, the European Commission is required to assess the case for inclusion of LULUCF, including avoided deforestation, in the EU ETS.

Before forestry credits could be included in the EU ETS further understanding will be required of the effect of inclusion on the carbon price. Modelling commissioned by the independent Eliasch Review has helped to inform Government policy on assessing the likely effects on carbon prices of including forest credits in the EU ETS, and future carbon market scenarios.

The core scenario modelled for the review used DECC's EU ETS Model combined with the UK Office of Climate Change's Global Carbon Finance (GLOCAF) model (which in turn used the DIMA[1] and GCOMAP[2] models for the underlying forestry emissions and costs data). The Government continue to monitor the variables that will affect the decision on inclusion.

[1] Dynamic Integrated Model of Forestry and Alternative Land Use (held by International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis—NASA).

[2] Generalized Comprehensive Mitigation Assessment Process (held by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory).

Government Departments: Microgeneration

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much energy used by the Government estate is produced onsite by *(a)* micro-renewables and *(b)* combined heat and power generation. [260457]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 4 March 2009]:* A number of Departments have already reported plans to install on-site generation technologies, some of which include microgeneration technologies. For example, the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform will be installing solar photovoltaic (PV) panels; the Department for International Development are undertaking two projects—a wind turbine and a biomass installation; the Department for Work and Pensions plan to install a wind turbine; the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have plans for a biomass project and a wind turbine project; and HM Revenue and Customs plan a mixture of biomass and wind turbine projects.

DECC also plans to consider options for microgeneration on its own estate, as part of a wider strategy to improve the energy efficiency and wider sustainability of the Department.

The current number of installations of onsite energy technologies is similar to that in 2007 when three Departments had renewable energy sources on-site. At that time, DEFRA generated 67MWhrs per year from solar thermal water heating. The Insolvency Service headquarters in London used a photovoltaic (PV) system which produces on average 9.1 kWhs a day and the MoD produced small amounts of renewable energy from off grid wind turbines/PV panels.

There are 10 combined heat and power (CHP) schemes located on the Government estate registered with the Government's CHP quality assurance programme (CHPQA). In 2007-08 these 10 schemes produced just over 19 gigawatt hours of good quality CHP electricity. This represents around 0.1 per cent. of the 28,677 gigawatts electricity produced in total by good quality CHP plants in the UK in 2007. The Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) report indicates that total CHP generated electricity consumed on the Government estate in 2007-08 was 311 gigawatt hours. 19 gigawatt hours of good quality CHP electricity generated on the Government estate represents around 6 per cent. of the total CHP electricity consumed on the Government estate in 2007-08.

National Home Energy Programme

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what period extra funding from energy companies and generators for the National Home Energy Programme will be provided. [260611]

Joan Ruddock: The Government's consultation package launched on 12 February proposes that the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target should be extended through to December 2012 (on which the Government would undertake a formal consultation), with the new Community Energy Saving Programme also running until this date.

Natural Gas: Prices

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the average cost of an *(a)* 11kg, *(b)* 12.7kg, *(c)* 18kg, *(d)* 19kg and *(e)* 47kg propane gas cylinder in each quarter of the last five years. [260701]

Joan Ruddock: DECC do not collect or publish prices of propane gas cylinders.

Data on average prices for propane for domestic use are collected in the Retail Prices Index by the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

Warm Front Scheme

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of households eligible to receive assistance under the Warm Front scheme. [258065]

Joan Ruddock: Warm Front assistance is available to vulnerable households living in private sector accommodation in England, and who are in receipt of a qualifying income or disability related benefit.

In 2006, the last year for which figures are available, it is estimated that there were 3.3 million households eligible for Warm Front assistance.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Recruitment

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many new recruits his Department took on in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 and *(d)* 2008-09, how many of these were taken on as (i) permanent, (ii) temporary and (iii) agency staff; and what estimate he has made of the equivalent figures for (A) 2009-10 and (B) 2010-11. [254468]

Paul Goggins: Northern Ireland Office departmental reports show that:

(a) 200 civil servants were recruited in 2005;

(b) 163 in 2006; and

(c) 152 in 2007.

As there is no difference in the terms and conditions of contract offered to both permanent and temporary staff, the published figures do not make a distinction in how the staff were recruited. The reports are available through the Northern Ireland Office's website.

In 2008, 92 staff were recruited. This is broken down as follows:

(i) 80 permanent staff and

(ii) 12 temporary staff.

No central records are kept of the number of staff recruited through agencies and there are no estimates available of equivalent figures for (A) 2009-10 and (B) 2010-11 therefore this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Electronic Tagging

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what effect he expects the introduction of electronic tagging to have on the number of *(a)* remand and *(b)* serving prisoners in Northern Ireland. [260078]

Paul Goggins: Electronic tagging to support the enforcement of curfews will be available to the courts as a condition of bail and as a licence condition for a range of custodial sentences from 1 April 2009.

In bail cases, it will be for the judiciary to decide in each case whether the use of a curfew with an electronic tag as a bail condition could be an appropriate alternative to custody. The ability to incorporate a curfew and tag, in conjunction with other licence conditions, will inform decisions being made on the release of offenders on licence. Each decision will be made on a case by case basis and it is not possible to estimate with any certainty how many remand and serving prisoners will be affected.

We have made provision for 500 electronic tags to be issued over the next two years.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Bankruptcy: Bexleyheath

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people have been declared bankrupt in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency in each year since 2000. [261427]

Mr. McFadden: The following table shows the number of bankruptcy orders recorded in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency in each year from 2000 to 2007. Figures are not yet available for 2008.

Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency

	Number
2000	27
2001	24
2002	27
2003	42
2004	35
2005	68
2006	74
2007	70

Notes:

1. Classifying bankrupt individuals into administrative geographies is done using the postcode that the person provides.

2. Inaccurate or missing postcodes mean that the numbers in the above table will be subject to an element of missing data. Nationally, this proportion has been decreasing from about 12 per cent. in 2000 to less than 4 per cent. in 2007.

Business: Government Assistance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proportion of payments to small and medium-sized businesses by his Department occurred within 10 days *(a)* from the establishment of the Department to 21 October 2008 and *(b)* from 21 October 2008 to date. [260625]

Mr. McFadden: Since 21 October 2008, BERR paid 96.1 per cent. of all invoices within 10 working days.

Prior to this BERR recorded payment within 30 calendar days. BERR does not currently record and publish information about the size of suppliers as this does not fully reflect the number and size of businesses engaged in supplying goods and services. We do not discriminate by size of business because many SMEs can be found within larger supply chains.

Departmental Internet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many visits his main departmental website received in each of the last 12 months. [261139]

Mr. McFadden: Visitor statistics for the main BERR website

www.berr.gov.uk

in the last 12 months are as follows:

	Visitors
March 2008	613,913
April 2008	626,986
May 2008	639,527
June 2008	681,650
July 2008	720,338
August 2008	516,080
September 2008	641,686
October 2008	753,954
November 2008	676,204
December 2008	546,116
January 2009	796,574
February 2009	690,263
Average	658,608
Total	7,903,291

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many videos are uploaded to his Department's YouTube channel; how many views each video has received; and how many further videos his Department plans to upload to YouTube. [261149]

Mr. McFadden: There are currently two videos uploaded to the Department's YouTube Channel. As of 4 March 2009 these have attracted 2,981 and 1,909 views respectively (4,890 views in total). In addition the channel itself has been viewed 4,575 times. The Department will create further videos where they can support the efficient communication of its policies.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many hours a week were spent by Departmental officials in maintaining his Department's YouTube channel in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many officials are involved in such work. [261150]

Mr. McFadden: One official, whose duties include maintaining the Department's YouTube channel, spends approximately five hours per week on this task.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department has spent on maintaining its YouTube channel since its inception. [261151]

Mr. McFadden: BERR has spent £7,345.00 on its YouTube chanñel since its inception.

Departmental Sick Leave

Norman Lamb: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many staff in his Department and its predecessors were on sick leave for *(a)* over 30 days, *(b)* over 50 days and *(c)* over 100 days in each of the last five years. [256317]

Mr. McFadden: The number of staff on sick leave for over 30, 50 and 100 days in each of the last five years is as follows:

	Length of absence		
	Over 30 days	*30-50 days*	*50-100 days*
2004	99	122	69
2005	59	57	57
2006	53	61	52
2007	40	48	42
2008	41	34	29

Fisheries: Government Assistance

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what programmes his Department funds to provide assistance to the UK fishing industry. [261137]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I have been asked to reply.

Over the past year, approximately £5 million has been invested to support projects such as the Environmentally Responsible Fishing project, the Fisheries Science Partnership, the Fisheries Challenge Fund, as well as funding for e-logbooks and light dues. In addition, a £5 million vessel decommissioning scheme is underway for the English inshore fleet, in order to address the current imbalance between capacity and quota.

Some £220 million of funding (£123 million of EU funds) is available for a wide range of UK projects under the European Fisheries Fund (EFF), which runs from 2007 to 2013. The basic aim of the EFF is to support the sustainable development of the fisheries sector. Since the UK Operational programme was approved in September 2008, UK administrations have approved approximately £13.5 million of projects under the EFF scheme[1].

[1] All figures relating to the European Fisheries Fund have been converted to pounds sterling at a rate of 1€=0.891211GBP (6 March 2009). Figures have also been rounded.

Insolvency

Gordon Banks: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will bring forward proposals to *(a)* set a maximum limit on and *(b)* reduce the fees of administrators and receivers relating to winding up of business failures. [260907]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 5 March 2009]:* The fees charged by an insolvency practitioner reflect the necessary level of specialist knowledge that the insolvency practitioner has to have to be able to take effective action in a wide range of unusual and complex situations. This expertise takes time and training to acquire.

The Insolvency Rules 1986 determine how the remuneration of an office holder (liquidator/ administrator/trustee etc.) is to be fixed and provide that such remuneration shall be fixed by reference to the time properly given to the administration, or as a percentage of the assets which are realised and distributed. In most insolvency cases it is for the liquidation or creditors' committee to determine the basis for fixing the remuneration or, in the absence of such a committee, the creditors decide the matter. The Rules also make provision for the court to review the amount of remuneration charged.

Statement of Insolvency Practice 9 provides regulatory guidance which insolvency practitioners must follow when seeking approval for their fees. Matters to be considered by the approving body (usually the creditors) include the effectiveness with which the insolvency practitioner has carried out his duties and the value and nature of the assets with which he has had to deal. In October 2004 the court issued a practice statement which provides guidance on matters that will be taken into account when the court is dealing with an application for review of remuneration.

As the amount of remuneration is subject to review by the court my noble Friend the Secretary of State has no powers to investigate the amount of remuneration charged. I would therefore confirm that I have no plans to bring forward plans to limit or reduce the fees charged by insolvency practitioners, which are properly a matter for the creditors or the court.

Insolvency: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many businesses have entered into administration in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in the last 12 months. [260784]

Mr. McFadden: There were 4,820 administrations (Enterprise Act 2002) in England and Wales in 2008. Statistics covering business administrations are not currently available on a regional basis within England and Wales.

Platte Media and MBS Systems: Complaints

Martin Horwood: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many complaints *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Office of Fair Trading have received in respect of the activities of Platte Media and MBS Systems; what steps have been taken in response; and if he will make a statement. [258746]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 25 February 2009]:* Part 9 of the Enterprise Act 2002 places restrictions on information relating to businesses and individuals which the OFT (including Consumer Direct) can disclose. Therefore, the OFT does not usually confirm or deny whether it has received complaints about an individual or business unless it considers it is appropriate to do so in relation to a particular investigation.

The OFT has however previously investigated the business activities of Micro Bill Systems Ltd. ("MBS"). In March 2008 MBS and its directors provided undertakings to the OFT following complaints about the appearance of 'pop-up' notices demanding payment for membership of adult content websites on consumers' computers. MBS also advised the OFT at the time that Platte International Ltd. (UK) ("Platte") would be taking over MBS so the OFT obtained identical undertakings from Platte.

Platte has now informed the OFT that it would cease trading from 25 February 2009 and that Platte International Ltd. (British Virgin Islands) ceased marketing to the UK from 2 February 2009.

The OFT monitors undertakings given to it and will consider whether any additional information it obtains warrants further enforcement action. It also liaises with relevant Trading Standards authorities to ensure that it is dealing with businesses fairly and proportionately while securing effective compliance with the law.

Royal Mail

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many representations he has received on the partial privatisation of the Post Office in each of the last three months; and how many of these have been *(a)* in favour and *(b)* against the Government's proposed policy. [261147]

Mr. McFadden: This information is not available in the form requested.

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his most recent estimate is of the cost of completing the modernisation of Royal Mail since the investment plan was agreed in 2007, and excluding the £600 million already spent. [261201]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 5 March 2009]:* The Government have made available £1.2 billion of debt facilities to enable Royal Mail to implement their 2007 transformation plan. Royal Mail will utilise all of this funding to implement their plans and will need ongoing finance in the future.

Royal Mail: Pensions

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much additional revenue he expects Royal Mail would receive annually were the Government to assume full responsibility for its pensions deficit. [261153]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 5 March 2009]:* Royal Mail currently receives an allowance for pension deficit recovery under the current price control agreed with Postcomm. How this is dealt with in the next price control, if the Government take responsibility for the company's historic pension liabilities in the context of partnership, will be a matter for Ofcom in discussion with Royal Mail.

Temporary Employment

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department has spent on the Agency Workers' Know Your Rights campaign. [261138]

Mr. McFadden: The projected spend for the 'Know your rights—agency workers' campaign is £1.25 million by the end of March 2009.

Trade Promotion

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many copies UK Trade and Investment produced of the 'Marketing the UK Like Never Before' document; and how much they cost to produce. [246205]

Mr. Thomas: 'Marketing the UK Like Never Before' was aimed at business professionals, trade associations and chambers of commerce. Reaction to the publication across the board has been extremely positive. Businesses have commended UKTI for adopting a marketing-led approach to promoting the UK.

1,010 copies of 'Marketing the UK Like Never Before' were produced at a cost of £11,243.00.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many young people from each parliamentary constituency began an undergraduate course at a UK higher education institution in *(a)* 1997-98 and *(b)* 2007-08. [258773]

Mr. Lammy: The latest information has been placed in the House Libraries.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Middlesbrough

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders were issued to men aged between 18 and 25 years old in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last five years. [260799]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information on the number of antisocial behaviour orders issued is not collected centrally below Criminal Justice System (CJS) area level.

Arrests: Demonstrations

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* arrests have been made and *(b)* people have been charged following an arrest at a public protest in each of the last five years. [260282]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The data requested are not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) recorded by the police forces in England and Wales, broken down at a main offence group level only. Information on subsequent outcomes after arrest are not part of this collection.

From the data on arrests reported to the Home Office, it is not possible to separate data for the number of arrests made and the number of people charged following a public protest.

Assaults on Police

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bury St. Edmunds of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 132-3W, on assaults on police, what the equivalent figures are for *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07; and if she will make a statement. [260629]

Mr. Coaker: The data provided here on sickness days due to assault are a supplementary series collected on behalf and released with the approval of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC). These data are normally used for inspection purposes only.

The requested data for 2005-06 and 2006-07 are given in the following table.

The requested information on days lost per officer and costs to each force are not collected centrally within the police personnel statistics series.

Number of police officer working days lost due to assaults[1]: 2005-06, 2006-07

	2005-06	2006-07
Avon and Somerset	n/a	21
Bedfordshire	184	178
Cambridgeshire	284	62
Cheshire	575	112
Cleveland	n/a	n/a
Cumbria	150	n/a
Derbyshire	351	236
Devon and Cornwall	990	334
Dorset	n/a	n/a
Durham	28	n/a
Dyfed-Powys	93	97
Essex	301	248
Gloucestershire	199	165
Greater Manchester	1,127	94
Gwent	417	n/a
Hampshire	302	252
Hertfordshire	85	186
Humberside	156	n/a
Kent	437	748
Lancashire	1,095	603
Leicestershire	193	274
Lincolnshire	88	211
London, City of	43	13
Merseyside	184	n/a
Metropolitan Police	18,577	7,647
Norfolk	41	67
Northamptonshire	4	29
Northumbria	290	905
North Wales	158	323

Number of police officer working days lost due to assaults[1]: 2005-06, 2006-07

	2005-06	2006-07
North Yorkshire	n/a	137
Nottinghamshire	145	n/a
South Wales	n/a	n/a
South Yorkshire	160	104
Staffordshire	285	299
Suffolk	5	213
Surrey	32	20
Sussex	334	109
Thames Valley	n/a	n/a
Warwickshire	63	715
West Mercia	467	446
West Midlands	1,313	1,419
West Yorkshire	974	725
Wiltshire	37	n/a

n/a = Data not available. Force was not able to supply data at the time of collection.

Note:

1 Provisional data taken from a supplementary series collected on behalf of HMIC and used for inspection purposes only. Data have not undergone usual quality assurance practices (including validation with individual police forces) and are therefore supplied for information purposes only.

Asylum: Castle Point

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers are *(a)* housed and *(b)* planned to be housed in Castle Point constituency. [260464]

Mr. Woolas: As at the end of December 2008, there were no asylum seekers recorded as supported in accommodation in the Castle Point constituency. This excludes any asylum seekers who were living in the Castle Point constituency but not receiving accommodation support from UK Border Agency and any unaccompanied asylum seeking children supported by local authorities.

Asylum: Democratic Republic of Congo

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department holds on the experience of unsuccessful asylum seekers removed to Kinshassa on 26 February 2007; and if she will make a statement. [255512]

Mr. Woolas: The information held regarding the experience of unsuccessful asylum seekers removed to Kinshassa on 26 February 2007 was submitted for consideration by the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT) in the Country Guidance case of BK (Failed asylum seekers) DRC CG [2007] UKAIT 00098. The AIT's Determination, including its findings in relation to the charter flight of 26 February 2007 (paragraphs 358-375), can be found on the AIT website at:

www.ait.gov.uk

The FCO is not aware of any allegations of mistreatment from any returnees on this flight.

Asylum: Finance

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on the Gateway refugee programme in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008. [260095]

Mr. Woolas: Total expenditure on the Gateway Protection programme for the calendar year 2007 was £7.0 million. Final figures for the calendar year 2008 are not yet available.

Cannabis: Fixed Penalties

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether offenders who have received a cannabis warning before 26 January 2009 would receive a penalty notice for disorder for any second cannabis possession offence committed after that date. [257041]

Jacqui Smith: The Association of Chief Police Officers' (ACPO) revised national guidance for England and Wales for the policing of cannabis possession for personal use by adults states (paragraph 3.1.1):

"If the offender has already received a Cannabis Warning on a previous occasion, then a further Warning should not be issued. The officer should escalate action. Note: Cannabis Warnings issued after 26 January 2009 must be taken into account when deciding a level of intervention, whereas those issued before this date should be considered as part of any previous offending history."

The guidance further makes clear that in deciding the appropriate level of intervention, officers retain their operational discretion and that arrest should remain the first presumption, taking into account all relevant circumstances including the presence of aggravating factors.

The ACPO guidance is available at:

www.acpo.police.uk/policies.asp

Crime Prevention

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what activities crime and disorder reduction partnerships are required to report on, broken down by data field; and when each requirement was introduced. [254589]

Jacqui Smith: Crime and disorder reduction partnerships are not required to report to the Home Office on their activities.

Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, CDRPs had previously been required to report annually to the Secretary of State on the partnership's work and progress. This duty was repealed in 2007.

Crime: Animal Welfare

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what meetings her Department has held with the Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime on reducing the number of illegal badger killings in the last 12 months. [258743]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 25 February 2009]:* The Government take all violence against animals, including badgers, very seriously. The Home Office is a member of the Partnership for Action against Wildlife Crime (PAW) Steering Group. Meetings are held quarterly and Home Office representatives attend where appropriate. We have not held a separate meeting with PAW to discuss illegal killing of badgers within the last 12 months.

Crimes of Violence: Females

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what meetings she has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on funding for specialised services for female victims of violence. [257283]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Funding for Government Departments is determined through spending reviews, which set firm and fixed three-year departmental expenditure limits and, through Public Service Agreements (PSA), define the key improvements that the public can expect from these resources. Funding for specialised services for women victims of violence is a decision for local areas which must be determined locally based on local need and priorities.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 have been made to her Department since 2005; how many of them were *(a)* agreed to and *(b)* refused in each of those years; how many refusals were subject to appeal to the Information Commissioner in each of those years; how many appeals were successful; if she will place in the Library copies of the material subsequently provided in each case; how much was spent by her Department opposing each appeal; which (i) consultants and (ii) law firms were employed by her Department in connection with each appeal; and if she will make a statement. [244887]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by the Minister of State for Justice, my right hon. Friend the Member for North Swindon (Mr. Wills) on 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 504W.

A copy of the information released pursuant to Information Commissioner decisions will be placed in the House of Commons Library.

Departmental Impact Assessments

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many equalities impact assessments her Department has undertaken in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; and what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of such assessments. [255071]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office has published 24 equality impact assessments in the last 12 month period.

The Secretary of State is committed to fulfilling her statutory duty to conduct such assessments, where required. The equality impact assessment process is part of the Home Office's policy/business development model. For these reasons, exact costs of the assessments can not be determined without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's entertainment budget was in each of the last five years. [261103]

Mr. Woolas: The Department does not delegate budgets specifically for entertainment. Expenditure on entertainment is covered by the larger hospitality and catering budget.

All Home Office expenditure on entertainment and hospitality conforms to the principles of regularity, propriety and value for money, and any other guidance as applicable contained within Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* food in each of the last five years. [261159]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office accounting systems do not identify separately the cost of alcohol and food. This information cannot be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Reviews

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many change programmes her Department has initiated in each of the last five years; what the planned budget was for each such programme; what the outturn cost was of each completed programme; and what the projected outturn cost is of each incomplete programme. [254597]

Jacqui Smith: Change programmes, large and small, are initiated across the Department on a regular basis. Records of all such programmes are not held centrally and such details could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Drugs: Crime

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with the European Commission on measures to prevent illegal drug activity. [260059]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Secretary met Vice President Jacques Barrot on 3 March when, in the context of discussions about the next five year work programme for justice and home affairs, she discussed the need for the EU to continue to work together against illegal drugs.

In November 2008, the Council of Ministers adopted the European Union Drugs Action Plan for 2009-12, the second within the EU Drugs Strategy 2005-12. This had been drafted by the Commission and amended in the Council in the course of the adoption process. The plan contains a series of actions to be taken by member states, the Commission, Europol and by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), with the ultimate aim of significantly reducing the prevalence of drug use among the population of the European Union and to reduce the social harm and health damage caused by the use of and trade in illicit drugs.

In October 2008, the Justice and Home Affairs Council also discussed the threat to the European Union of cocaine trafficking through west Africa and tasked officials to take forward a series of actions addressing this.

Economic Situation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* summits, *(b)* conferences and *(c)* seminars her Department has hosted since January 2008 at which a primary subject for discussion was the impact of the economic situation on matters within her Department's responsibility. [260149]

Mr. Woolas: We are unable to answer this question as we do not hold the information required centrally.

Empty Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the estimated cost in empty property business rates for the vacant properties recorded on the e-PIMS database owned by *(a)* her Department, *(b)* HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and *(c)* the UK Border Agency is in 2008-09. [258514]

Mr. Woolas: As at 24 February 2009 the e-PIMS database recorded that there were no vacant owned properties on the estates of the Home Office, HM Inspectorate of Constabulary or the UK Border Agency. Empty rates are therefore not payable in respect of any property owned by these bodies.

Entry Clearances

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been prevented from entering the UK on the grounds that their presence could threaten public security in each year since 1997. [260060]

Mr. Woolas: From 1997 to 2008, 5,160 persons were refused entry at the UK border on grounds relating to the public good. The annual breakdown is as follows:

	Number of refusals
1997[1]	10
1998[1]	12
1999[1]	28
2000[1]	79
2001	323
2002	273
2003	606
2004	977
2005	645
2006	626
2007	828
2008	753
Total	5,160

[1] Statistics between 1997 and 2000 are based on local management information and they predate the current Home Office records database.

Entry Clearances: EC Nationals

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many EU nationals from each member state have been refused entry into the UK on the grounds that their presence would threaten public safety in each of the last five years. [260077]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 25 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 865W.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Health on the effect of the maximum length of student visas on foreign students studying medicine in the UK. [260566]

Mr. Woolas: Tier 4 of the Points Based System is due to be launched at the end of this month, and under the terms of the Tier, as published in the Tier 4 Statement of Intent (SoI), General Student visas were to have been limited to a maximum period of four years. This period would have covered the duration of the majority of degree courses, but students on longer courses would have had to apply for extensions of stay to complete their courses.

However, in the light of concerns expressed since the publication of the SoI about the position of medical students and others on longer degree courses, I have decided, and recently announced, that degree students may be issued with visas for the full duration of their courses in the United Kingdom, rather than their visas being limited to a maximum of four years.

Entry Clearances: Standards

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 152W, on entry clearances, what the reasons are for the relatively low performance against public service agreement targets in Sri Lanka; in which three countries there was the lowest performance against the public service agreement targets for processing visa applications in 2007-08; and if she will make a statement. [260623]

Mr. Woolas: In the financial year 2007-08 the number of visa applications in Colombo exceeded the ability of the visa section to process them.

In that financial year, our posts in the following countries had the lowest performance against public service agreement targets for visa processing times (rating 1 = lowest):

	PSA1	*PSA 2*	*PSA 3*
1	Sudan	Algeria	Morocco
2	Seychelles	Mongolia	Sri Lanka
3	Mongolia	Slovakia	Ethiopia

These data are unpublished and should be treated as provisional.

Genetics: Databases

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how old the *(a)* youngest and *(b)* oldest person with a profile on the national DNA database is; and how old the (i) youngest and (ii) oldest person to have had a profile added to the national DNA database was at the time the profile was added. [243275]

Jacqui Smith: As at 26 November 2008, the youngest person with a profile on the National DNA Database was aged under one year and the oldest was over 90 years old. The youngest person to have had a profile

added to the NDNAD was under one year old, and the oldest was over 90 years old, at the time the profile was added.

The precise age of the subject profile taken from the subject aged over 90 cannot be disclosed as it would constitute personal data as defined by Article 2 of the European Data Protection Directive: information relating to an identified or identifiable individual.

On 16 December 2008, I announced that the Government would take immediate steps to remove the DNA profiles of children aged under ten from the NDNAD.

Human Trafficking

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of people-trafficking-related *(a)* investigations, *(b)* trials and *(c)* convictions have been brought about as a result of the activity of the Metropolitan police human trafficking unit in each year since its inception. [241792]

Jacqui Smith: The data provided by the UK Human Trafficking Centre indicate that of the 92 convictions secured for human trafficking offences 28 have been as a result of operations by the police in the Metropolitan Police Service area. It is not possible to break down the number solely related to the work of the Met's trafficking unit as operations against this crime often involve officers from the boroughs, the Clubs and Vice Unit, as well as from the joint operations involving UKBA staff.

The number of convictions by year is follows:

	Number
2004	1
2005	10
2006	10
2007	1
2008	6

Immigration: Appeals

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the average length of time taken by her Department to comply with judgments of the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal after a decision has been taken by her Department not to appeal. [260546]

Mr. Woolas: Information on the average length of time taken to comply with an Asylum and Immigration Tribunal judgment following a hearing is not available. This could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by examination of individual case records.

However, the UK Border Agency has recently undertaken a piece of work to review the processes involved in granting status following an allowed appeal. The review has identified potential process amendments to make the system more timely and a workshop to consider how changes could be implemented has recently taken place. One of these amendments includes looking into the possibility of introducing targets for the implementation of status following an allowed appeal.

Arrangements have been made to monitor progress in this area.

Immigration: Marriage

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy to record the occasions on which a failure to fulfil the probationary period for those seeking settlement on the basis of marriage is used as a basis for removing a person's right to remain in the UK. [260385]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not available. The reasons for refusal are recorded on individual case files and data on this could be obtained by the detailed examination of individual case records only at disproportionate cost.

Immigration: Sri Lanka

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Sri Lankan asylum seekers *(a)* applied for asylum, *(b)* were granted asylum, *(c)* were otherwise given leave to remain in the UK and *(d)* were removed from the UK in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007 and (iv) 2008. [254537]

Mr. Woolas: The following tables show the number of Sri Lankan who applied for asylum, were granted asylum or subsidiary protection at initial decision or on appeal and the number who were removed from the UK, between January 2005 and September 2008. Initial decision, appeal and removal figures do not necessarily relate to applications made in the same year.

Information on asylum is published annually and quarterly. Q4 2008 statistics will be available on 24 February 2009 from the Library of the House and from the Home Office research, development and statistics directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Asylum applications[1] received in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants, and initial decisions[2] on applications, January 2005 to September 2008, nationals of Sri Lanka

Principal applicants

	Applications			*Decisions*				
	Total	*Port*	*In country*	*Total decisions*	*Grants of asylum*	*Grants of humanitarian protection*	*Grants of discretionary leave*	*Total refusals*
2005	395	90	310	520	5	—	60	455
2006	525	125	400	430	5	—	55	370
2007[3]	990	195	795	935	65	*	55	810
January to September 2008[3]	1,040	160	880	645	120	*	45	480

[1] Figures rounded to nearest 5, (— = 0, * = 1 or 2).
[2] Information is of initial decisions, excluding the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions.
[3] Provisional figures.

Appeals outcomes determined by the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal[1], excluding dependants, nationals of Sri Lanka, January 2005 to September 2008

		Appeals determined by immigration judges[2]					
		Allowed[3]		Dismissed[3]		Withdrawn[3,4]	
	Total determined[3]	Total	As percentage of determined	Total	As percentage of determined	Total	As percentage of determined
2005	630	70	11	535	85	25	4
2006	440	85	19	330	76	20	5
2007[5]	865	240	28	595	69	25	3
January to September 2008[6]	530	175	34	335	64	15	3

[1] Figures rounded to nearest 5 (except percentages), with * = 1 or 2. Figures may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.
[2] All figures for appeals determined are cases dealt with by immigration judges.
[3] Based on information supplied by the AIT. Determinations do not necessarily relate to appeals received in the same period.
[4] Figures include cases withdrawn by the Home Office, as well as those withdrawn by the appellant.
[5] Provisional figures.

Removals, voluntary departures and assisted returns[1] of principal asylum cases[2], nationals of Sri Lanka, January 2005 to September 2008

	Number of removals[3]
	Total principal asylum cases removed, nationals of Sri Lanka
2005	425
2006	715
2007[4]	505
January to September 2008[4]	210

[1] Includes enforced removals, port asylum removals which have been performed by enforcement officers using port powers of removal (and a small number of cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls), persons departing voluntarily after enforcement action had been initiated against them, persons leaving under Assisted Voluntary Return Programmes run by the International Organisation for Migration and since January 2005, persons who it has been established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.
[2] Persons who had sought asylum at some stage, excluding dependants.
[3] Figures are rounded to the nearest 5 (— = 0, * = 1 or 2) and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.
[4] Provisional figures.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 2259W, on human trafficking, when she plans to write to the hon. Member for North-West Cambridgeshire with the information referred to. [253745]

Mr. Alan Campbell: A reply was sent on 28 January 2009.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 4 December 2008, regarding Mrs. Shakeela Bano. [259872]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 21 January 2009.

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when a reply will be sent to the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood's e-mail to the UK Border Agency of 23 October 2008 on behalf of Felix Kankwamba, Home Office reference K1115877. [260348]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency replied to the right hon. Member on 3 March 2009.

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Minister for Borders and Immigration plans to reply to the inquiry from the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood of 23 October 2008 on behalf of Momodou Saidyjah, reference J1146013. [261010]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency wrote to the right hon. Member on 3 March 2009.

Mental Illness

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the recommendations relevant to her Department's policy responsibilities made in the Foresight Report on Mental Capacity and Well-Being; and if she will make a statement. [260022]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office welcomes this Foresight report and will be assessing the implications of its findings for departmental business in respect of the areas covered by the report.

National Identity Register: Expenditure

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent on the National Identity Register to date. [258102]

Meg Hillier: It is not possible to provide a specific breakdown of spend to date relating to the National Identity Register without incurring disproportionate costs.

Contracts that have been let to date provide a range of capabilities and not all costs of these contracts or the programmes to support them are attributable to the development of the National Identity Register alone.

National Policing Improvement Agency: Manpower

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff work in each section of the National Policing Improvement Agency. [254821]

Jacqui Smith: The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) has six directorates, spread across a number of sites. The Resources directorate and Secretariat provide business support to NPIA, while all other Directorates provide direct support and services to police forces.

The total number of staff as at 12 February 2009 was 2,192. This includes permanent staff, secondees, fixed term appointments, officers on loan and contractors.

The following table provides a breakdown of staff by directorate.

Directorate	Permanent	Fixed contract	Secondee	Loan	External employee	Total
Information communications technology and science	207	7	53	—	131	398
Operations	297	9	43	2	32	379
People and development	347	21	116	4	65	553
Policing policy and practice	286	16	117	2	145	486
Resources	177	5	4	4	134	324
Secretariat	36	1	12	1	2	52
Total	1,270	55	345	13	509	2,192

Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment her Department has made of the work of the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner. [261218]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency regularly monitors information it receives from the OISC about its performance and how it is meeting its business objectives.

Official Residences

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 806-07W, on official residences, whether the right hon. Member for Sheffield, Brightside paid rent in respect of his occupancy of the property at South Eaton Place during the two periods when he resided there while not holding Ministerial office. [245934]

Mr. Woolas: The right hon. Member for Sheffield, Brightside (Mr. Blunkett) made a payment in respect of his occupancy of the property at South Eaton Place for a period in 2005.

Police Cautions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cautions were given for each offence in the last year for which figures are available. [254496]

Jacqui Smith: Information on the number of offenders cautioned, broken down by offence group, are published in table 3.2 of the Ministry of Justice publication "Criminal Statistics—England and Wales 2007". A copy is available in the House Library.

A breakdown of the offences included in the categories in table 3.2 is provided in appendix 3 of the publication.

The increase in cautions in recent years is broadly consistent with the improved performance of the CJS which in 2007-08 saw a 44 per cent. increase in the number of offences brought to justice since 2001-02.

Table 3.2: Offenders[1] cautioned by sex and type of offence, 1998-2007—England and Wales

									Number of offenders (thousand)	
Sex and type of offence	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Males[2]										
Indictable offences										
Violence against the person	18.4	16.6	15.5	15.2	11.9	21.5	27.5	38.1	43.8	39.6
Sexual offences	1.7	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.5	1.7	1.8	1.9
Burglary	7.5	6.8	5.8	5.7	5.0	4.9	4.9	5.6	6.8	6.2
Robbery	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.5
Theft and handling stolen goods	51.4	46.4	40.0	36.6	30.7	30.7	34.2	38.0	42.0	41.8
Fraud and forgery	4.7	4.6	3.8	3.6	3.3	3.5	3.7	4.4	5.2	5.6
Criminal damage	2.4	2.6	2.8	2.9	2.6	3.1	4.6	6.0	7.5	7.4
Drug offences	52.3	43.5	36.4	34.9	30.8	40.2	28.5	30.1	32.5	37.6
Other (excluding motoring offences)	4.2	3.7	3.6	3.4	3.6	4.2	4.7	5.5	7.3	7.8
Total (excluding motoring offences)	142.9	126.1	109.7	103.8	104.4	109.8	110.0	129.9	147.6	148.5
Summary offences (excluding motoring offences)	76.9	76.1	69.6	68.0	63.8	70.9	76.0	87.6	112.0	120.2
All offences[3] (excluding motoring offences	219.8	202.3	179.3	171.8	168.2	180.6	185.9	217.5	259.6	268.7
Females										
Indictable offences										
Violence against the person	5.1	4.7	4.4	4.4	5.7	7.2	9.1	13.0	13.4	12.7
Sexual offences	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Burglary	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.9	0.8
Robbery	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1

Table 3.2: Offenders[1] cautioned by sex and type of offence, 1998-2007—England and Wales

Sex and type of offence	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
										Number of offenders (thousand)
Theft and handling stolen goods	32.2	29.1	27.6	26.9	23.5	23.8	27.8	29.6	30.3	31.0
Fraud and forgery	2.7	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.0	2.0	2.3	2.5	2.8	3.0
Criminal damage	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.9	0.9	1.3	1.5	1.4
Drug offences	6.4	5.8	4.7	4.5	5.1	5.5	4.1	4.3	4.9	5.4
Other (excluding motoring offences)	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.3	1.4	2.1	2.1
Total (excluding motoring offences)[2]	48.8	44.5	41.2	40.1	38.5	41.0	46.3	53.0	56.2	56.6
Summary offences (excluding motoring offences)	19.2	19.4	18.5	18.0	18.6	20.2	23.5	28.5	34.2	37.6
All offences[2] (excluding motoring offences)	68.1	63.9	59.7	58.1	57.2	61.2	69.8	81.4	90.3	94.2
All offenders										
Indictable offences										
Violence against the person	23.5	21.2	19.9	19.6	23.6	28.8	36.6	51.0	57.3	52.3
Sexual offences	1.7	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.8	1.9	2.0
Burglary	8.4	7.7	6.6	6.4	5.8	5.6	5.6	6.5	7.7	7.0
Robbery	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.6
Theft and handling stolen goods	83.6	75.4	67.6	63.5	54.2	54.5	61.9	67.6	72.4	72.8
Fraud and forgery	7.4	7.2	6.2	5.8	5.3	5.5	6.0	6.9	8.0	8.6
Criminal damage	2.7	3.0	3.2	3.4	3.1	3.7	5.5	7.2	9.0	8.8
Drug offences	58.7	49.4	41.1	39.4	44.9	45.7	32.6	34.4	37.4	43.1
Other (excluding motoring offences)	5.0	4.6	4.4	4.1	4.4	5.3	6.0	6.9	9.4	10.0
Total (excluding motoring offences)[2]	191.7	170.6	150.9	143.9	142.9	150.7	156.3	182.9	203.8	205.1
Summary offences (excluding motoring offences)	96.2	95.6	88.1	85.9	82.4	91.1	99.5	116.0	146.2	157.8
All offences[2] (excluding motoring offences)	287.9	266.1	239.0	229.9	225.4	241.8	255.8	298.9	350.0	362.9

[1] Other offenders i.e. companies, public bodies etc. are included with males.
[2] May not sum due to rounding.

Police: Crime

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many instances of *(a)* assistance to other agencies, *(b)* bail or curfew checks, *(c)* complaints against police and *(d)* police-generated resource activity, as defined by the National Incident Category List, were recorded by each police force in 2007-08. [258635]

Jacqui Smith: This information is held by each individual police force and is not collated or held centrally by the Home Office.

Police: Olympic Games 2012

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police forces will be responsible for the security of the training camps for teams competing in the London 2012 Olympics; and if she will make a statement. [261367]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 6 March 2009]:* The location of specific training camps is not yet finalised. In general, the provision of security for training camps for teams competing in the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games is a private matter between the venue owner and the teams concerned.

Our approach to security planning is risk-based and intelligence-led. Some teams will be at greater risk and we will work with them to ensure appropriate safety and security measures are in place.

If our understanding of threats changes and further measures are needed to protect specific camps and teams, the overall approach set out in our Security Strategy is sufficiently responsive and flexible, to allow us to take appropriate security measures.

Proceeds of Crime

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the Serious and Organised Crime Agency has *(a)* spent on all forms of asset recovery and *(b)* recovered in proceeds of crime since its creation. [260271]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 3 March 2009]:* Asset recovery work is mainstreamed into all tasked operations by the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA). Within each operation it is not possible to identify the expenditure that relates to asset recovery elements of individual cases. Details of SOCA's asset recovery performance since its inception in April 2006 to March 2008 were published in its annual reports 2006-07 and 2007-08. SOCA will report on its performance for the current financial year in the SOCA annual report 2008-09, which will be laid before Parliament following year end.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the Serious and Organised Crime Agency has spent on receivers' fees for *(a)* civil and *(b)* criminal asset recovery since its creation. [260372]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 3 March 2009]:* Civil recovery powers were extended to the Serious Organised Crime Agency and prosecutors in April 2008 under the Serious Crime Act 2007. SOCA's costs relating to this new function are subject to internal validation and will be available after the end of the financial year. The courts are responsible for the payment of receivers' fees that relate to criminal asset recovery.

Prostitution

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will commission research on the effectiveness of *(a)* compulsory and *(b)* voluntary counselling for prostitutes. [259205]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Home Office Research Study 279 Tackling Street Prostitution: Towards an holistic approach, published in 2004, considered the effectiveness of different approaches and identified models of needs and support for those involved in street prostitution. This and a range of existing research informed the Home Office Consultation Paying the Price (2004), and the subsequent development of the Co-ordinated Prostitution Strategy (2006).

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much local authorities spent on average in each of the last five years on providing voluntary counselling for individuals working as prostitutes. [259206]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The responsibility for disseminating local funding is devolved to local authorities. How this money is spent is a decision for each local authority. The level of spending of each authority on particular services is not monitored by central Government.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to ensure local authority provision of specific services and schemes for people working as prostitutes to assist them with *(a)* housing, *(b)* poverty, *(c)* childcare, *(d)* drug addiction and *(e)* health care. [259210]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Co-ordinated Prostitution Strategy sets out a number of actions for local partnerships, including; to conduct a needs assessment, and where prostitution is an issue, to develop local measures to tackle street prostitution, including prevention, providing routes out, linking this activity to the drug strategy; and to develop prioritised and specialised drug treatment programmes and other services as part of the exiting process. The strategy also indicates a Home Office commitment to produce guidance on models of support and routes out, in order to assist local partnerships with the commissioning of appropriate support services for those involved in prostitution. This guidance is being developed and will support the implementation of legislative provisions which form part of a comprehensive approach to tackling problems associated with prostitution.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to ensure local authority provision of services and schemes for people working as prostitutes to assist the reporting of violence and abuse. [259211]

Mr. Alan Campbell: As part of the Government's Co-ordinated Prostitution Strategy the Ugly Mugs scheme which enables those involved in prostitution to share information on dangerous clients, has been expanded through the existing Crimestoppers helpline that allows crime to be reported anonymously. The Government's Public Service Agreement 23 Making Communities Safer includes a priority action to reduce the most serious sexual offences and domestic violence. This will require local authorities to prioritise action to tackle these offences including through increasing the reporting of these offences.

Queen Elizabeth II: Anniversaries

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans her Department has to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. [243972]

Mr. Woolas: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport is in discussions with the royal household about how to mark the diamond jubilee.

Regional Strategic Migration Partnerships

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding her Department has provided for each Regional Strategic Migration Partnership in the last 12 months. [259424]

Mr. Woolas: The UK border agency has paid, or will pay, the following amounts to Regional Strategic Migration Partnerships for the 2008-09 financial year:

	£
Yorkshire and Humberside	170,000
North West	170,000
West Midlands	170,000
London	170,000
Scotland	150,000
North East	150,000
East Midlands	130,000
Wales	130,000
South East	110,000
South West	110,000
East of England	110,000

Security Guards: Licensing

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many private security licences have been granted to people of each nationality by the Security Industry Authority. [257050]

Jacqui Smith: This information is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Security Industry Authority: Finance

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the budget of the Security Industry Authority has been in each year since it was established. [257056]

Jacqui Smith: The following table summarises the Security Industry Authority's (SIA's) budget for each year since it was established. Further details can be found in the SIA's Business Plans on their website at:

http://www.the-sia.org.uk/home/about_sia/publications/publications_financial.htm

The Home Office funded the SIA's initial start-up costs and deficits but the SIA is now self-funding.

Table: Security Industry Authority budget

£000

Financial year	Planned variable licensing costs	Planned operating costs or expenditure	Planned capital	Total planned expenditure	Planned total income	Source = Corporate business plans
2003-04[1]	0	8,622	6,810	15,432	0	SIA Plan 2003-06
2004-05	10,285	11,313	2,441	21,598	23,971	SIA Plan 2003-06
2005-06	5,860	16,330	1,571	23,761	25,584	SIA Plan 2005-06 to 2008-09
2006-07	8,867	14,256	3,420	26,543	18,582	SIA Plan 2005-06 to 2008-09
2007-08	7,988	13,498	2,200	23,586	19,293	SIA Plan 2007-08 to 2009-10
2008-09	9,855	14,568	132	24,555	25,301	SIA Plan 2008-09 to 2010-11

[1] All income received was grant in aid from the Home Office.

Security: Housing

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding has been provided for home security improvements for low income pensioners in each year since 1997 in Dacorum. [261179]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Data to this level of detail are not held centrally or locally and it would be a disproportionate cost to attempt to calculate the figures. However, in Dacorum the local authority provides a service offering home security improvements which include the fitting of locks, door chains, spy-holes and smoke alarms free of charge to actual or potential burglary victims. This service supports vulnerable groups, including older people. Between April and December 2008 they visited 556 older people to provide these services.

Special Constables: Dacorum

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many special constables there were in Dacorum in each year since 1997. [261182]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not collected centrally.

The Home Office collects figures for numbers of special constables at police force and Basic Command Unit (BCU) level only. Geographically, Dacorum does not match any of the BCUs in Hertfordshire.

UK Border Agency: Complaints

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will place in the Library a copy of the audit memorandum drafted by the UK Border Agency Complaints Audit Committee. [260818]

Mr. Woolas: The audit memorandum is included as an appendix in the Complaints Audit Committee's annual report 2007-08, copies of which are already available in the Library.

Visas: Iraq

Dr. Howells: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what facilities there are to issue visas at the UK consulate in Erbil in the Kurdistan region of Iraq; and if she will make a statement. [260247]

Mr. Woolas: UKBA are planning to trial a limited visa operation at the British embassy office, Erbil. Current planning is that the limited service will commence on 9 March 2009. Applications (by appointment only) will be accepted on a similar basis to the model operated in Baghdad. Applications will be forwarded to Amman for processing.

JUSTICE

Departmental Detergents

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make it his policy to ensure that no cleaning products or ingredients of cleaning products used by his Department have been tested on animals. [261122]

Mr. Malik: The Ministry of Justice does not have a corporate policy on cleaning products being tested on animals. However, HM Prison Service's current contract for provision of cleaning products is free from products tested on animals and this contract may be extended to the whole of the Ministry of Justice as part of the wider rationalisation of the procurement of goods and services.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his Department's entertainment budget was in each of the last five years. [261108]

Maria Eagle: A budget is set for "Travel, Subsistence and Hospitality". The cost of entertainment provided in the course of furthering departmental business falls within this budget. There is, however, no departmental requirement to separately report expenditure on entertainment and therefore no separate budget for entertainment is held. The element of the "Travel, Subsistence and Hospitality" budget that relates to entertainment could be separately estimated only at a disproportionate cost.

All expenditure on entertainment is in line with the Ministry's internal Finance Policy Manual and its Gifts and Hospitality Policy, which set out mandatory guidance for all staff regarding the use of public funds. Both are consistent with the Treasury guidance on Managing Public Money, and the Treasury handbook on Propriety and Regularity.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of letters sent by his Department were given to *(a)* the Royal Mail and *(b)* another postal services provider for delivery in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [259970]

Mr. Malik: The information requested is set out as follows.

Ministry of Justice (ex DCA)

Information about the volume of correspondence sent by Royal Mail is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Regarding the use of other commercial delivery services, the former DCA used one other licensed carrier, DX Network Services. Volumetric data for this financial year are currently being collated and will be available in April 2009.

In respect of spend for the 2007-08 financial year, the Department spent £10.49 million (77 per cent.) with Royal Mail, compared with £3.1 million (23 per cent.) with DX Network Services.

DX Network Services provides a cost effective and efficient mail service between courts, to the legal profession and other business addresses.

National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and The Office for Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR)

Information about the volume of correspondence sent by Royal Mail and other commercial delivery services is not available and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

HM Prison Service (HMPS)

Postage is handled on an individual Prison basis and there are no central contracts for mail collection and distribution; volumes are not recorded either.

Departmental Public Appointments

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information his Department holds on the number of persons appointed to executive positions in bodies for which his Department has responsibility who previously had careers in the banking industry. [261245]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice does not centrally hold information on the number of persons appointed to executive positions in bodies for which we are responsible, who have previously had careers in the banking industry. To collate this information would necessitate enquiring of all those in executive positions across a significant number of MOJ bodies, which would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what payments for *(a)* polling and *(b)* other services his Department has made to (i) Deborah Mattinson and (ii) Opinion Leader Research Limited since 31 December 2007; and if he will make a statement. [260993]

Mr. Wills: For the period from 31 of December 2007, no payments have been made by the Ministry of Justice to either Deborah Mattinson or to Opinion Leader Research Limited.

All NDPBs, NPS, and the Scotland Office are excluded from this response as their details are held separately and to gather it would exceed the cost limit. Information can be separately requested from the individual offices if required.

Departmental Training

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has provided voice coaching to any of its employees in the last 12 months. [260641]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice does not currently provide voice coaching training events.

17 members of the senior civil service attended "Public Speaking Training Days" in November 2008. These events included an element on voice coaching.

The Ministry of Justice also provides in-house one-to-one coaching on presentation skills. This course covers what a presentation is and when to use the medium; tools to plan and prepare; using appropriate visual aids; and how to keep the audience listening and interested. 310 people have attended this course over the last 12 months.

As part of the 'tools to plan and prepare' element of the presentation skills course, delegates are given an explanation of appropriate pitch, tone and pace of voice. Records are not kept on requests by delegates to enlarge on that subject.

Dietary Supplements: EU Law

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when Ministers in his Department last visited *(a)* Jersey and *(b)* Guernsey; and whether the importation of health foods and food supplements from the Channel Islands to the UK was discussed on such visits. [260960]

Mr. Wills: A ministerial visit was made to Guernsey on 10 and 11 February 2009, the importation of health foods and health food supplements were discussed. A ministerial visit was last made to Jersey on 10 May 2004, the importation of health foods and health food supplements were not discussed on this occasion. It is anticipated that there will be a ministerial visit to Jersey in the near future.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the average cost of a drug rehabilitation requirement was in the latest period for which figures are available; [260969]

(2) how many drug rehabilitation requirements are in force; [260970]

(3) how many drug rehabilitation requirements were *(a)* made, *(b)* successfully completed and *(c)* breached by non-compliance in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [260971]

Mr. Hanson: Drug rehabilitation requirements (DRRs) as an element of community orders came into force in April 2005, in effect replacing and building upon Drug Treatment and Testing Orders (DTTOs).

A total unit cost of £6,000 per order for DTTOs was calculated from the experience of the pilots run from 1998 to 2000. This was split into approximately £2,000 for offender supervision/management costs and £4,000 for treatment costs, with the latter paid into the Department of Health pooled treatment budget and the remainder met by probation areas from main funding.

Significant regional variations in Drug (and Alcohol) Action Team (D(A)AT) commissioning practice and costs of treatment modalities have made it difficult to establish unit costs for DRRs since the pilots.

The National Offender Management Service plans to undertake a piece of analysis, informed by work on treatment costs being undertaken by the National Treatment Agency, to establish more accurately the unit cost of a DRR.

The most recent analysis of the drug rehabilitation requirements (DRRs) caseload was carried out at the end of 2007-08. At that time there were 10,519 DRRs and 187 Drug Treatment and Testing Orders (DTTOs) in force.

The following table shows the number of starts, completions, orders where breach proceedings were instigated and revocation of orders for drug rehabilitation requirements (DRRs) or Drug Treatment and Testing Orders (DTTOs) in each of the last three financial years for which full information is available.

The proportion of offenders successfully completing DTTOs/DRRs has risen significantly from 28 per cent. in 2003 to 43 per cent. in 2007-08. This is encouraging because we know from research that offenders who complete orders have significantly lower reconviction rates (53 per cent.) than those that don't (91 per cent.), although it is not possible to attribute this difference entirely to the programme.

	DRR/ DTTO starts	*DRR/ DTTO completions*	*Orders where breach proceedings were instigated*	*Revocation of the order for failure to comply*
2005-06	14,001	3,978	10,433	3,222
2006-07	15,798	5,939	11,286	4,441
2007-08	16,607	6,253	11,554	4,791

Electoral Register

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will publish the guidance issued by his Department to electoral registration officers on visits to the houses of people who have failed to register. [260974]

Mr. Wills: The Electoral Administration Act 2006 introduced a new, explicit requirement for electoral registration officers (EROs) to take all steps that are necessary for the purpose of complying with their duty to maintain the electoral registers. These steps, as set out in the legislation, include sending the canvass form more than once, making house to house inquiries in connection with the canvass, making contact by such other means as the ERO thinks appropriate with a person who does not have an entry in the register, and inspecting any record that the ERO is permitted by law to inspect.

Issuing guidelines for EROs falls within the Electoral Commission's remit and they published a guidance manual on all aspects of managing electoral registration to support EROs in Great Britain on 24 February 2008. This manual is regularly updated and specifically deals with matters in relation to undertaking an annual canvass, the appointment of canvassers and the requirement to make house visits to non-responding households.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to ensure that all electoral registration forms are identically-worded. [260975]

Mr. Wills: The form to be used by Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) for the annual canvass must be that prescribed for the purpose of the canvass or a form to like effect, in accordance with section 10(4) of the Representation of the People Act 1983. The prescribed form is set out in Regulations, for example in England and Wales the form is set out in its entirety in the Schedule to the Representation of the People (Form of Canvass) (England and Wales) Regulations (SI 2006/1694).

The design of rolling registration forms is a matter for EROs: but such forms must contain the detailed information required by Regulation 26 of the Representation of the People (England and Wales) Regulations 2001 (SI 2001/341). The Electoral Commission has designed a form that EROs may use. Electors may register to vote by simply writing to their ERO enclosing the required declaration, information and their signature. This can help to speed up the registration process for electors and thus the Government have no current plan to prescribe a rolling registration form in legislation. However, we will consider the need for all electoral registration forms to be identically-worded and whether a rolling registration form should be prescribed, particularly in view of the Government' proposal to allow for the collection of personal identifiers on a voluntary basis.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department reimburses local authority chief executives for their work on electoral administration; and if he will make a statement. [260976]

Mr. Wills: Under section 8 of the Representation of the People Act (RPA) 1983, each local authority must appoint an officer of the local authority to be electoral registration officer (ERO), responsible for maintaining the electoral register in the local authority area. Under section 35 of the RPA 1983, each local authority must appoint an officer of the local authority to be returning officer for local elections in that area. Local authority chief executives are often appointed as ERO and returning officer for their local authority.

Under section 28 of the RPA 1983, the duties of the returning officer for constituencies at a parliamentary election will be discharged by the ERO appointed by the local authority (as acting returning officer). Under section 6 of the European Parliamentary Elections Act 2002, at European parliamentary elections, acting returning officers for parliamentary elections will act as local returning officers for the purposes of administering the election. However, the Local Elections (Ordinary Day of Elections in 2009) Order 2008, which provides for the local government elections in England in 2009 to take place on the same day as the European parliamentary elections

on 4 June 2009, amends the European Parliamentary Elections Act 2002 to provide that the European elections on 4 June will be administered in England by local authority returning officers.

Local authorities fund the costs of EROs in carrying out their registration duties and the costs of returning officers in administering local authority elections.

The costs incurred by returning officers for administering parliamentary and European parliamentary elections are paid by the Government out of the Consolidated Fund.

Fraud: Social Security Benefits

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance he issues to the courts on the grant of an absolute discharge to a defendant convicted of benefit fraud offences. [260968]

Maria Eagle: The Secretary of State for Justice does not issue guidance to courts on sentencing disposals. This function is exercised by the independent Sentencing Guidelines Council. In May 2008, they published the Magistrates' Court Sentencing Guidelines which cover most of the offences regularly coming before a magistrates court, including that of making a false statement or representation to obtain social security benefit. The guideline can be found on the Sentencing Guidelines Council's website at:

www.sentencing-guidelines.gov.uk

Government Departments: Public Consultations

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance his Department provides to other Government departments on the legal requirements which they must meet when undertaking public consultations. [260901]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice does not provide guidance to other Government departments on the legal requirements that they must meet when undertaking public consultations as, in general, each department will rely on its in-house legal advice.

Homicide: Domestic Violence

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of those convicted of murder of a woman in each of the last five years had a previous conviction for domestic violence or had previously been reported to the police for domestic violence. [260924]

Mr. Hanson: The requested information is not available. The Ministry of Justice's extract of data from the police national computer can provide information on the previous convictions of offenders. However, the database does not enable us to identify offences involving domestic violence, nor does it include information on the gender of murder victims.

House of Lords: Reform

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his timetable is for bringing forward new proposals on the future composition of the House of Lords. [260789]

Mr. Straw: The Government's White Paper on Lords reform was published on 14 July 2008 following cross-party talks. Building on the consensus established in the talks, the Government intend to develop detailed proposals to be put to the electorate as a manifesto commitment at the next general election. Legislation would then be possible in the next Parliament.

The White Paper set out three possible models for managing the transition to a fully reformed Chamber. The timetable for completing the transition to a fully reformed second Chamber will be very much determined by which of these models is adopted.

Legal Aid: Payments

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the highest ratio is of money owed by the Legal Services Commission to a solicitor's practice providing approved legal aid under its contract payments protocol to the standard monthly payment to such a solicitor's practice. [260306]

Mr. Malik: The LSC's overall objective on payments to legal service providers is to provide financial stability by paying them a regular sum—the standard monthly payment (SMP)—each month that matches their average claim value. The SMP is varied to take account of actual claims and aims to achieve 100 per cent. reconciliation balance.

The current highest claim to payment ratio is for an outstanding balance of £14,800 against an SMP of £1,700. The SMP in this case has been based on the historic performance of the contract but there has been a particularly high claim received recently that has had an impact on the contract balance.

The LSC will be changing the payments to pay off the balance over a three month period.

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the Legal Services Commission will have paid the £10,000 outstanding at the end of January to a solicitor's practice in Worthing, as referred to in communications by the hon. Member for West Worthing, under the payment arrangements which have been in place hitherto. [260307]

Mr. Malik: The provider in question has both a civil and a criminal contract with the LSC, each of which is reconciled separately to ensure that the LSC's standard monthly payments (SMP) to the provider equate over time to the value of the claims made. At February 2009, the balance of the civil contract account was £4,798 underpaid to the provider, but the balance of the criminal contract account was £8,904 overpaid in the provider's favour. However, in order to assist the provider's particular circumstances, the LSC has agreed to consider the February 2009 claims as soon as they are available from the provider and to take appropriate steps to ensure prompt payment.

Medical Treatments: EU Law

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions officials and Ministers in his Department have had with officials in Guernsey on the secondary

legislation necessary to make the Medicines (Human and Veterinary) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law 2008, consistent with the European Medicines Directive; and when he expects such legislation to be introduced. [260959]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice have had no discussions about ensuring secondary legislation is consistent with the European Medicines Directive. This is the responsibility of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency. During a recent ministerial visit to the Island on 10 and 11 February 2009 Guernsey were asked about the timescale to implement the Medicines (Human and Veterinary) (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law 2008. Their aim is to submit the relevant commencement ordinance to the States of Deliberation by June and bring secondary legislation into force shortly afterwards.

Offenders

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information his Department collects on offenders' *(a)* employment history, *(b)* educational history and *(c)* health requirements for an offender's (i) pre-sentence report, (ii) supervision plan and (iii) induction in prison; and if he will make a statement. [261049]

Mr. Hanson: Information about employment and educational history (such as employment status, history, work related skills, school attendance and literacy and numeracy problems) and general health (including questions concerning drug and alcohol misuse and difficulty in coping and current psychological problems) is routinely collected as part of the process of interviewing and assessing offenders in order to prepare a pre sentence report and sentence and risk management plan. Information on other factors related to offending is also gathered. The information is recorded on the national Offender Assessment System (OASys), accessible to prison and probation staff.

On reception and induction to a prison, the offender is interviewed by health professionals and may be referred to learning and skills professionals, drugs workers (Counselling Assessment Referral and Throughcare teams), and other relevant specialists.

Offenders: Housing

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many and what proportion of offenders who ended their residence in ClearSprings Bail Accommodation and Support Service properties in 2008 had an accommodation address to move on to; and if he will make a statement; [260439]

(2) how many offenders have been released from prison into ClearSprings Bail Accommodation and Support Service properties; and how many defendants or offenders released into ClearSprings properties have since been returned to custody. [260440]

Mr. Hanson: Data on the number and proportion of those in the Bail and Accommodation Service who have addresses to move on to after completion are being obtained and I will write to the hon. and learned Member as soon as possible.

1,183 offenders and 1,657 defendants had been released into the Bail Accommodation and Support Service up to 23 February 2009. 176 of those released on bail completed their bail period by that date and were then sentenced to custody. Numbers of those otherwise returned to custody following breach while in the service or after completion of the service cannot be provided except at disproportionate cost.

Offenders: Veterans

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice, what (a) account is taken by and (b) information is made available to offender managers of the services provided by the Service Personnel and Veteran's Agency in the drafting of supervision plans for offenders who have served in the armed forces; if he will ensure that such offenders are informed of the services for which they are eligible which are provided by (i) the Royal Brtish Legion, (ii) Combat Stress and (iii) Soldiers, Sailors and Airforce Association; and if he will make a Statement. [261045]

Mr. Hanson: The Veterans Prison In-Reach Initiative, a partnership between the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Defence, promotes the help and support for veterans available from the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency (SPVA) to prison establishments and Probation Offender Managers. The SPVA website and free-phone helpline is promoted to front-line staff which can assist the development of supervision plans for veteran offenders.

As part of the Veterans Prison In Reach initiative we are running an extensive cross departmental campaign aimed at staff, including offender managers. ex veteran offenders and their families on services available. This exercise is conducted in close and active co-operation with the three veteran charities mentioned by my Hon. Friend. This helps to inform the sentence for ex veteran offenders.

Police Custody

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were held in police cells in each police force area in 2008; and at what estimated cost. [256740]

Mr. Straw: Operation Safeguard was activated between 12 October and 22 December 2006 and again from 16 January 2007 to 31 October 2008. Police cells have not been used since 22 September 2008 and no police cells have been on stand-by since the end of October 2008.

The following table details usage between 1 January 2008 and 22 September 2008 and gives the aggregate total of the number of prisoner nights in which a police cell was used. It is not possible to ascertain how many individual prisoners these totals cover.

NOMS is invoiced by police forces in arrears for the use of cells activated under Operation Safeguard. Invoices to the value of £10,790,000 were paid between 1 April 2008 and 31 December 2008 for the activation of Operation Safeguard in the 2008-09 financial year.

	Usage (prisoner nights)
Avon and Somerset	35
Bedfordshire	82
Cambridgeshire	414

	Usage (prisoner nights)
Cheshire	1,558
Cleveland	0
Cumbria	89
Derbyshire	341
Devon and Cornwall	432
Dorset	109
Durham	377
Dyfed Powys	0
Essex	645
Gloucestershire	1
GMP	611
Gwent	0
Hampshire	475
Hertfordshire	395
Humberside	30
Kent	948
Lancashire	263
Leicestershire	723
Lincolnshire	2
Merseyside	43
MET	4,423
Norfolk	12
North Wales	453
North Yorkshire	20
Northamptonshire	43
Northumbria	0
Nottinghamshire	34
South Wales	715
South Yorkshire	194
Staffordshire	58
Suffolk	369
Surrey	9
Sussex	223
TVP	688
Warwickshire	893
West Mercia	1
West Midlands	939
West Yorks	948
Wiltshire	6
Total	7,528

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Chichester of 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 478-9W, on political parties: finance, whether an hon. Member who triggered their election expenses by virtue of prejudicing the electoral prospects of another candidate at the election would be required to count any subsequent expenditure from the communications allowance as regulated election spending. [258663]

Mr. Straw: The restrictions on use of the communications allowance for political purposes are clear. As such, it should not be the case that expenditure for electoral purposes could be funded by the communications allowance in any event, whether the expenditure in question precedes or follows any separate statement that has the effect of prejudicing another candidate's electoral prospects.

Rape: Prosecutions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions were brought for rape against women in each of the last 10 years, broken down by police force area; and what the rate of conviction was in each case. [260932]

Maria Eagle: The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for rape against women, from 1998 to 2007 (latest available), by police force area, are shown in tables 1 and 2. The percentage of those proceeded against who were found guilty in England and Wales is shown in table 3.

The figures given relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Table 1: Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for rape against a female[1], by police force area[2], 1998 to 2007[3, 4], England and Wales

Police force area	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Avon and Somerset	61	64	52	83	75	73	64	52	63	54
Bedfordshire	27	31	27	25	27	17	31	24	19	16
Cambridgeshire	15	35	26	30	22	13	23	25	21	25
Cheshire	27	27	28	28	25	25	29	33	30	22
City of London	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	—	—
Cleveland	17	16	17	17	30	33	22	41	29	31
Cumbria	11	14	6	31	21	16	15	15	13	15
Derbyshire	34	38	35	33	44	49	54	61	39	48
Devon and Cornwall	32	29	27	27	13	7	17	18	20	27
Dorset	15	19	20	32	25	16	19	20	19	20
Durham	21	22	32	34	31	20	30	24	32	26
Essex	57	49	31	40	50	48	46	49	28	16
Gloucestershire	11	13	17	11	29	12	18	14	26	30
Greater Manchester	138	116	108	137	167	170	165	165	158	161
Hampshire	66	82	79	89	93	89	81	95	57	80
Hertfordshire	15	15	26	20	30	33	45	44	50	19

Table 1: Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for rape against a female[1], by police force area[2], 1998 to 2007[3, 4], England and Wales

Police force area	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Humberside	22	20	20	17	31	24	30	39	43	22
Kent	41	31	43	40	64	46	48	50	57	57
Lancashire	52	53	58	71	83	63	58	96	68	67
Leicestershire	40	22	31	41	50	45	38	46	33	28
Lincolnshire	24	16	15	18	29	25	23	26	13	10
Merseyside	54	41	54	70	82	88	63	35	41	32
Metropolitan Police	296	346	298	402	513	574	460	546	508	476
Norfolk	17	22	13	19	17	17	9	4	3	10
North Yorkshire	15	20	12	19	26	20	43	29	29	24
Northamptonshire	13	1	1	5	2	6	16	16	12	3
Northumbria	111	97	76	65	58	69	52	49	53	46
Nottinghamshire	54	48	49	69	58	56	57	50	42	31
South Yorkshire	36	22	42	46	51	51	59	56	60	42
Staffordshire	24	25	—	53	50	44	41	43	39	39
Suffolk	24	18	13	23	30	24	26	28	32	15
Surrey	15	11	16	24	25	26	15	24	20	17
Sussex	41	30	39	38	47	33	47	59	52	38
Thames Valley	44	36	36	55	42	46	44	74	71	49
Warwickshire	7	5	6	4	7	8	6	10	10	9
West Mercia	32	24	18	40	43	31	36	40	33	23
West Midlands	130	127	136	184	221	209	188	146	151	144
West Yorkshire	101	142	125	162	132	128	97	98	54	65
Wiltshire	25	11	6	18	27	25	23	28	19	20
Dyfed-Powys	14	30	22	14	20	12	25	10	11	11
Gwent	33	30	24	31	46	42	37	27	24	22
North Wales	29	19	18	23	22	13	25	17	16	11
South Wales	83	66	59	68	90	59	78	59	56	59
Total	1,924	1,883	1,761	2,256	2,551	2,405	2,304	2,385	2,154	1,959

[1] Includes:
Rape of a female aged under 16: Sexual Offences Act 2003, section 1.
Rape of a female aged 16 or over: Sexual Offences Act 2003, section 1.
Rape of a female child under 13 by a male: Sexual Offences Act 2003, section 5.
[2] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.
[3] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Evidence and Analysis Unit.

Table 2: Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for rape against a female[1], by police force area[2], 1998 to2007[3, 4], England and Wales

Police force area	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Avon and Somerset	14	9	12	12	11	20	21	9	16	16
Bedfordshire	2	5	5	8	5	5	12	7	5	8
Cambridgeshire	2	4	3	7	8	2	3	9	6	6
Cheshire	9	10	11	6	8	9	10	10	14	9
City of London	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cleveland	5	8	5	5	10	8	9	8	16	19
Cumbria	4	4	3	6	4	8	9	6	5	7
Derbyshire	6	10	10	4	6	13	19	12	20	10
Devon and Cornwall	22	14	10	8	15	13	14	17	15	19
Dorset	4	7	10	3	5	3	4	3	7	3
Durham	8	4	3	3	4	1	8	6	5	4
Essex	12	8	3	8	5	6	8	10	12	8
Gloucestershire	2	3	6	—	2	7	—	3	11	5
Greater Manchester	40	23	39	34	30	30	27	41	43	39
Hampshire	20	21	19	17	20	10	14	26	27	17
Hertfordshire	6	7	4	3	6	10	11	5	7	11
Humberside	6	8	6	8	9	9	8	15	23	22
Kent	9	13	15	16	12	6	10	14	15	23
Lancashire	15	26	11	14	13	16	16	12	28	18

Table 2: Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for rape against a female[1], by police force area[2], 1998 to2007[3, 4], England and Wales

Police force area	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Leicestershire	16	12	6	4	8	12	11	10	7	10
Lincolnshire	5	3	5	4	8	4	4	12	7	4
Merseyside	15	9	7	21	12	13	18	23	14	14
Metropolitan Police	92	82	95	70	92	106	99	97	127	132
Norfolk	2	2	4	5	6	4	9	9	14	11
North Yorkshire	6	7	5	5	8	5	11	10	10	10
Northamptonshire	4	7	5	8	8	7	12	7	9	8
Northumbria	20	16	16	21	18	17	18	9	18	20
Nottinghamshire	14	19	15	20	13	13	10	16	11	15
South Yorkshire	10	13	5	13	13	19	22	33	24	23
Staffordshire	9	13	—	7	11	9	15	12	6	16
Suffolk	4	8	4	1	6	5	3	6	10	3
Surrey	4	2	2	5	5	5	5	4	4	4
Sussex	11	8	7	6	10	17	10	7	10	21
Thames Valley	9	15	13	14	14	11	15	19	17	21
Warwickshire	1	1	1	2	1	1	3	8	4	2
West Mercia	10	8	5	5	12	9	9	10	12	9
West Midlands	39	27	27	34	26	49	45	56	44	50
West Yorkshire	43	38	36	20	15	29	44	42	31	37
Wiltshire	2	1	4	2	8	6	4	3	9	7
Dyfed-Powys	1	4	4	2	2	2	4	4	2	4
Gwent	3	7	7	7	15	8	4	6	6	12
North Wales	9	6	3	2	5	5	6	3	3	9
South Wales	29	23	17	10	19	16	21	14	13	15
Total	544	515	483	450	508	548	605	633	687	701

[1] Includes:
Rape of a female aged under 16: Sexual Offences Act 2003, section 1.
Rape of a female aged 16 or over: Sexual Offences Act 2003, section 1.
Rape of a female child under 13 by a male: Sexual Offences Act 2003, section 5.
[2] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level. Data have been included only in the England and Wales total.
[3] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Evidence and Analysis Unit.

Table 3: Percentage[1] of defendants convicted at all courts for rape against a female[2], England and Wales[3], 1998 to 2007[4, 5]

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
England and Wales	28	27	27	20	20	23	26	27	32	36

[1] The percentages are based on the number of defendants convicted (table 2) against the number proceeded against (table 1). It is important to note that the found guilty column may exceed those proceeded against, as it may be the case that proceedings in the magistrates court took place in the preceding year to which the defendant was found guilty at the Crown court. It is also possible that a defendant may be found guilty for a different offence to that for which proceedings were taken.
[2] Includes:
Rape of a female aged under 16: Sexual Offences Act 2003, section 1.
Rape of a female aged 16 or over: Sexual Offences Act 2003, section 1.
Rape of a female child under 13 by a male: Sexual Offences Act 2003, section 5.
[3] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.
[4] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[5] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Evidence and Analysis Unit.

Special Educational Needs: Tribunals

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2095W, on special educational needs: tribunals, how many of the appeals *(a)* received, *(b)* registered and *(c)* which were successful occurred in each local authority area in each year. [260822]

Bridget Prentice: The First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability) (SEND) does not keep the information which the hon. Member has requested in a readily available format. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

SEND does, however, keep annual data on received and registered appeals in relation to local authorities

and these are available at the back of each Annual Report on the SEND website:

www.sendist.gov.uk

Reports are not currently on the web for the period 1998-2001 but SEND is in the process of making the information available in this format. The Tribunal will send this information to the hon. Member and place a copy in the Libraries of the House when this work is complete.

The data on appeals received include appeals that are received by SEND that fall outside of the SEND jurisdiction. The data on appeals registered include all the appeals that are accepted by SEND as falling within its jurisdiction and which are taken forward to hearing and disposal.

Styal Prison

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent reports he has received on the safety and welfare of women prisoners at HMP Styal. [261152]

Mr. Hanson: Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons published a report of her announced Inspection of HMP Styal, carried out between 1 and 5 September 2008, on 26 February 2009. As with all such reports, the National Offender Management Service will provide a detailed response, in the form of an action plan, which will address each of the 209 recommendations. Ministers will approve the action plan.

TREASURY

BAA

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* correspondence (i) he, (ii) other Ministers in his Department and (iii) officials in his Department have had with representatives of BAA since 3 October 2008; when each meeting took place; who attended each meeting; and what the subject of each meeting was. [252707]

Yvette Cooper: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Bank Services

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimates his Department has made of the proportion and total amount of lending within the UK by *(a)* UK banks, *(b)* foreign banks and *(c)* non-banking institutions in each month since January 2007. [257980]

Ian Pearson: The Bank of England publishes statistics relating to lending, which are available at:

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/statistics/index.htm.

These statistics include data on the amount of lending by UK banks, building societies and other lenders. The UK National Accounts publishes data on loans attributable to foreign banks and securities issued by UK residents and they are available at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase

Bank Services: Regulation

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Financial Services Authority has made of the effect of commission structures on the quality of investment advice to (i) private investors and (ii) public authorities, with particular reference to advice to public authorities on investment in Icelandic banks. [258501]

Ian Pearson: Financial advisers are regulated by the financial services authority (FSA) and it is for the FSA to determine whether or not any particular firm is meeting its regulatory obligations. Regarding investment advice to private investors, the FSA launched the retail distribution review over two years ago in order to address persistent problems in the retail investment market which may be undermining consumer confidence and the effective operation of competition. This included the effect of commission structures on the quality of investment advice. In November 2008, the FSA published a feedback statement setting out proposed changes in this area, including proposals that would require financial advisers to set their own charges, rather than product providers being able to determine how much the adviser firms receive through commission. Regarding public authorities, local authorities are responsible for their own investment decisions and guidance issued by Communities and Local Government requires them to produce an annual investment strategy which is approved by the full council.

Banks

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what meetings *(a)* officials and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have held with UK banks in each year since 1997; what issues were discussed; who was present at each meeting; whether a record of each meeting was kept; and if he will make a statement. [259073]

(2) whether the minutes of meetings held between *(a)* officials in his Department and *(b)* Ministers in his Department and banks (i) in temporary public ownership and (ii) recapitalised with public funds will be published; and if he will make a statement. [259072]

Ian Pearson: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings and discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings and discussions.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information his Department has obtained on the pension arrangements of all current directors of banks which are now supported by public funding or guarantees. [260664]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 4 March 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the Statement made by the Chancellor on 26 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 373.

The Treasury and UK Financial Investments Ltd. (UKFI) have been liaising with the board of the banks of which they are major shareholders on remuneration policy. This includes work to ensure that remuneration policies are in line with the Government's principles on remuneration, including no rewards for failure. Directors' remuneration arrangements—including pensions arrangements as appropriate—are disclosed in the banks' annual report and accounts.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the European Commission has approved the bank credit guarantees scheme. [261375]

Ian Pearson: The European Commission has approved the bank credit guarantee scheme. The approval can be found by clicking on the following links to the Commission's website:

http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/1406&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en

http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/08/2057

Banks: Iran

Mr. Hague: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the statement of the Financial Action Task Force of 25 February 2009, what counter-measures he plans to take to protect the UK financial sector from money laundering and financing of terrorism risks emanating from Iran; and if he will make a statement. [260998]

Ian Pearson: The Treasury has issued an advisory notice to all businesses regulated under the Money Laundering Regulations 2007 and all other persons authorised by the Financial Services Authority alerting them to the high-risk nature of transactions with Iran due to the serious deficiencies in its systems to combat money-laundering and terrorist financing. The Treasury is also actively considering what further steps may be necessary to ensure the UK financial sector is protected from this risk, and is in discussion with international partners.

Banks: Regulation

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what advice the Bank of England gave his Department in 1997 on the merits of the transfer of regulatory authority for the banking system from the Bank of England to the Financial Services Authority. [260029]

Ian Pearson: Conversations between Governor and Chancellor must remain privileged.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which banks were regulated by the Financial Services Authority (FSA) in each year from 2001 to 2008; and how many are now regulated by the FSA. [261407]

Ian Pearson: The Financial Services Authority publishes a list of 'banks' on the FSA website. The list is updated monthly and goes back to 2001. It can be found at:

http://www.fsa.gov.uk/Pages/Library/Other_publications/Banks/index.shtml

Banks: USA

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what powers the Financial Services Authority (FSA) has to investigate the operations of subsidiaries of British-based banks operating in the United States; and what reports he received from the FSA on the implications for the United Kingdom banking sector of the operations of UK banking subsidiaries in the United States sub-prime mortgage market; [257698]

(2) what reports he has received from the Financial Services Authority on its communication with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission on its inquiries into the practices of subsidiaries of British banks operating in the United States securitization of mortgages market. [257700]

Ian Pearson: Firms carrying on a regulated activity, by way of business, within the UK, are required to be authorised with the Financial Services Authority (FSA) and are subject to FSA regulation, unless they benefit from a statutory exemption. To the extent that an overseas subsidiary of a British-based bank's activities take place entirely outside the UK and do not involve services to UK firms or individuals, those activities are likely to be outside the scope of UK financial services regulation and not subject to FSA authorisation requirements.

As the memorandum of understanding between HM Treasury, the Bank of England and the FSA sets out, the tripartite authorities have regular meetings.

Children: Poverty

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the number of children in West Lancashire constituency who have been taken out of poverty as a result of tax credits. [262063]

Mr. Timms: Tax credits play a key role in making work pay and reducing poverty, and have helped to lift 600,000 children out of relative poverty since 1998-99.

Estimates of the number of recipient families with tax credits, including the number of children in these families, by constituency, as at December 2008, are available in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child and working tax credits statistics Geographical analyses December 2008". This is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what his Department's entertainment budget was in each of the last five years; [261112]

(2) how much his Department spent on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* food in each of the last five years. [261167]

Angela Eagle: For information on spending on official entertainment I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1892W to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond). The Treasury's accounting systems do not separately identify alcohol and food spending within official entertainment and the information could not be provided within the disproportionate costs threshold.

Departmental Press

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has spent on newspapers, magazines and periodicals in each year since 1997. [261259]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury's expenditure on newspapers and periodicals in 2007-08 was £143,000.

For information on previous years, I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Rayleigh (Mr. Francois) on 2 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1743W and 25 July 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1346W.

Departmental Public Appointments

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information his Department holds on the number of persons appointed to executive positions in bodies for which his Department has responsibility in the last five years who previously had careers in the banking industry. [261222]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is not held centrally.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what payments for *(a)* polling and *(b)* other services his Department has made to (i) Deborah Mattinson and (ii) Opinion Leader Research Limited since 31 December 2007; and if he will make a statement. [260992]

Angela Eagle: There have been no payments made to Deborah Mattinson or Opinion Leader Research Ltd. since December 2007.

Departmental Rail Travel

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost of travel by train by staff in his Department was in each year since 1997. [261258]

Angela Eagle: Information on travel by train was not separately identified within the Treasury's accounting system prior to 2005-06 and could not now be provided within the disproportionate costs threshold. Spending on UK and overseas train travel since then was £400,000 in 2005-06, £525,000 in 2006-07 and £523,000 in 2007-08. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the Treasury's manual on travel and subsistence.

Departmental Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent by his Department on staff surveys in 2008; and which companies were contracted to carry out the surveys. [260917]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury conducts an annual staff survey at the end of every calendar year. This is contracted out to Towers Perrin-ISR. HM Treasury also conducts exit surveys of staff who leave the Department and new starter surveys. These surveys are contracted out to Talent Drain. The breakdown of costs is not available as the contracts are still current so this information is commercially sensitive.

Economic Situation: USA

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely effect on the UK economy of measures introduced by the US administration to assist the US economy. [260795]

Ian Pearson: The Government continue to work closely with its international partners to address the global economic slowdown. The 2009 Budget on 22 April will provide updated forecasts for the UK economy and will take into account all relevant factors.

Excise Duties: Motor Vehicles

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely effects of recent vehicle excise duty changes on car dealership businesses. [253699]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 2 February 2009]:* Vehicle Excise Duty refund rules have changed so that only a registered vehicle keeper may apply. By advising their customers to take the tax disc for a refund when selling a car to the trade and by deducting the refund value from the price paid for these cars, car dealerships can preserve the financial benefit of refunds for all.

Car dealers benefit from £165 trade licences, transferable between cars for delivery and demonstration purposes, which obviate the need to pay other rates of Vehicle Excise Duty on their stock for the first three months. No dealer will pay more than £5 extra under the standard Vehicle Excise Duty rates for 2009-10. First year rates of Vehicle Excise Duty will be introduced from April 2010 for previously unlicensed new cars.

Financial Markets: Abuse

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what criteria are used by the Financial Services Authority to determine whether market activity on the part of any individual or organisation designed to undermine a specific financial institution constitutes economic subversion. [261093]

Ian Pearson: Part VIII, section 118 of the Financial Services and Markets Act (FSMA) defines seven types of behaviour under the civil market abuse regime, which run parallel to criminal offences. The FSA Code of Market Conduct is a code of practice built upon FSMA

that gives appropriate guidance to those determining whether or not behaviour amounts to market abuse.

Financial Services Compensation Scheme

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 906W, on banks: finance, if he will make an estimate of the cost to *(a)* building societies and *(b)* banks (i) in total and (ii) as a percentage of (A) pre-tax profits for the last three financial years and (B) the total balance sheet of each type of organisation of the management expenses bill levied by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. [261678]

Ian Pearson: The Financial Services Authority (FSA) is responsible for making the rules regarding the levies the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) may raise to meet compensation costs and management expenses. The Government consider, consistent with EC law, that the cost of financing deposit-guarantee schemes should be borne, in principle, by deposit-taking firms themselves.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall North, dated 28 January 2009, acknowledged by his Department with the reference 3/08679/2009, on his constituent. [261747]

Mr. Timms: I have replied to my hon. Friend.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to provide a substantive reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Walsall North dated 15 January 2009 to the Tax Credit Office on a constituent, acknowledged by the Tax Credit Office with the reference 2009/01002/13; and what the reasons are for the time taken to reply. [261748]

Mr. Timms: HMRC sent a reply to my hon. Friend on 6 March 2009 and apologises for the delay.

Public Sector: Procurement

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what criteria are used to define local in respect of prioritisation of local suppliers in public procurement policy. [261527]

Angela Eagle: The UK is bound by law and international obligations to make public procurement opportunities available to suppliers from across the EU and certain other countries that are signatories to the Agreement on Government Procurement, and not to discriminate against such suppliers. UK suppliers benefit from other countries' adherence to the same obligations.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Oxford, East of 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 530W, on public expenditure: small businesses, when he expects implementation of each recommendation in the Glover report to be completed; and if he will make a statement. [261666]

Angela Eagle: Projects are under way to meet the 12 recommendations of the Glover report, "Accelerating the SME Economic Engine" which is concerned with improving SME access to public sector procurement. All recommendations will be delivered by the end of 2010 with some projects and a training package covering key parts of the recommendations to be delivered before the end of 2009.

Revenue and Customs

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the net effect on the expenditure of HM Revenue and Customs of the proposed closure of tax offices in the next five years; [261433]

(2) what estimate he has made of the effect on the level of HM Revenue and Customs expenditure on accommodation costs from the proposed closure of tax offices in the next five years. [261434]

Mr. Timms: The HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) Estate Consolidation Programme covers the period between April 2007 and March 2012.

There will be short-term costs, including staff redeployment costs, associated with the closure of offices, but reliable figures will only be established once solutions have been found for all staff and the accommodation has been vacated. HMRC expects to achieve cumulative accommodation cost savings of £231 million over the period April 2007 to March 2012. Further annual savings of around £90 million a year will accrue beyond March 2012.

There will be savings resulting from business efficiencies as well as from a reduction in the size of its estate.

Revenue and Customs: Data Protection

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of HM Revenue and Customs' new data security packet rule book. [250523]

Mr. Timms: I have today placed a copy of the HMRC Data Security Pocket Rulebook in the Library. This has been redacted to remove some procedural and contact details for security reasons.

Senior Tripartite Committee

Lynne Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what dates meetings of the Senior Tripartite Committee were held in each of the last two years; and how many times the committee has met in each year since its establishment. [259155]

Ian Pearson: The three authorities meet at a number of levels under the auspices of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on a very regular basis. The Standing Committee meets at least monthly (and more recently weekly and even daily) to discuss financial stability issues and can convene at any time when necessary. As a matter of course, we do not comment on meetings of the Standing Committee.

Social Security Benefits

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what modelling he undertook for the purposes of the pre-Budget report 2008 on predicted levels of *(a)* job seeker's allowance claims and *(b)* incapacity benefit claims in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11; and whether the Government's proposals on welfare reform announced on 10 December 2008 were taken into account in that modelling. [244468]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 16 December 2008]:* The forecasts for jobseeker's allowance (JSA) and incapacity benefits for the pre-Budget report (PBR) 2008 were based on the latest available information at the time of publication, relating to past trends of relevant caseloads and expected future economic conditions. The JSA forecast uses the claimant unemployment assumption, which is audited by the National Audit Office (NAO), as described in Box B1 on page 188 of the PBR 2008.

Stamp Duty Land Tax

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer of 25 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 895W, on stamp duty and tax, if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of the stamp duty land tax holiday for first-time housebuyers in the next 12 months. [260882]

Ian Pearson: An estimate could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

TNT: Taxation

Roger Berry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether HM Revenue and Customs has imposed any financial penalty on TNT companies for tax irregularities in the last 10 years. [261347]

Mr. Timms: I am unable to comment on any company's tax affairs because of the requirement for taxpayer confidentiality.

VAT: Tax Rates and Bands

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the number of businesses which *(a)* have not passed on the reduction in value added tax to customers and *(b)* have replaced the value added tax reduction with other promotional offers. [261601]

Mr. Timms: HMRC has made no such estimates. ONS statistics for the consumer price index in January show that 70 per cent. of standard rated goods have had their prices reduced. The report can be found at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/cpi0209.pdf

Vulture Funds

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the Answer of 13 November 2007, *Official Report*, columns 227-29W, on vulture funds, what progress the Government has made in dealing with vulture funds; and if he will bring forward proposals to prohibit their operation. [261352]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to him on 5 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1815W.

HEALTH

The following questions were answered on 4 March 2009

Antidepressants: Children

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many courses of anti-depressant medication were prescribed to children under 16 years of age in each strategic health authority area in each of the last five years; [260483]

(2) how many children aged under *(a)* 10, *(b)* 12, *(c)* 14 and *(d)* 16 years were prescribed anti-depressant medication in each of the last five years. [260484]

Phil Hope: This information is not collected centrally.

Baby Care Units: West Midlands

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in the West Midlands have had to travel more than 50 miles to access neo-natal emergency treatment in each of the last 10 years. [259417]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not held centrally.

The Government set out their policy for neonatal services in the "Report of the Review Group on Neonatal Intensive Care", which was published in 2003. A copy is available in the Library.

Neonatal networks have established a more structured, collaborative approach to caring for newborn babies. This includes the designation of some hospitals that are specially equipped to care for the sickest and smallest babies, with other hospitals providing high dependency and special care as close to home as possible. They are also aiming to help to reduce the number of long distance transfers—over 96 per cent. of babies are cared for within their local network.

Contraceptives

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women in each *(a)* age group and *(b)* NHS trust area were given prescriptions for an (i) intra-uterine system, (ii) intra-uterine device and (iii) sub-dermal implant in each of the last 10 years. [259646]

Dawn Primarolo: Data on the number of prescription items dispensed in the community by primary care trust for 2004-05 to 2007-08 have been placed in the Library. Information is not held prior to 2004-05. Data on the number of patients receiving a prescription, and also data by age, are not available.

Data supplied by community contraceptive clinics by age and trust for 2005-06 to 2007-08 have also been placed in the Library. Data for the seven years preceding 2005-06 can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women in each age group were fitted with an intra-uterine *(a)* system and *(b)* device in each of the last 10 years. [259647]

Dawn Primarolo: The information available is shown in the following tables.

The following tables shows data on the number of prescription items dispensed in the community. Data by age are not available.

Intra-uterine system items

Financial year	*Number (Thousand)*
1998-99	33.934
1999-2000	39.630
2000-01	46.303
2001-02	52.397
2002-03	58.104
2003-04	63.563
2004-05	68.376
2005-06	79.445
2006-07	85.927
2007-08	95.522

Intra-uterine device items

Financial year	*Number (Thousand)*
1998-99	74.822
1999-2000	70.132
2000-01	59.295
2001-02	53.186
2002-03	49.215
2003-04	45.224
2004-05	41.876
2005-06	41.766
2006-07	40.806
2007-08	39.937

Source:
Prescription information is taken from the Prescription Cost Analysis system, supplied by the Prescription Services Division of the NHS Business Services Authority, and is based on a full analysis of all prescriptions dispensed in the community in England i.e. by community pharmacists and appliance contractors, dispensing doctors, and prescriptions submitted by prescribing doctors for items personally administered in England. The data do not cover drugs dispensed in hospitals.

The following tables shows first contacts with women at community contraception clinics by method, age and year.

First contacts with women at community contraceptive clinics by primary method of contraception and age, 1998-99 to 2005-06

Number of first contacts (Thousand)

		Age				
	All ages	*Under 16*	*16-19*	*20-24*	*25-34*	*35 and over*
1998-99						
IU Devices	63.4	0.2	1.7	6.7	25.2	29.6
Implant	1.3	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.6	0.3
1999-2000						
IU Devices	66.7	0.2	2.4	7.8	26.3	30.0
Implant	2.4	0.0	0.2	0.5	1.1	0.6
2000-01						
IU Devices	64.8	0.2	2.3	7.6	25.4	29.3
Implant	3.4	0.1	0.4	0.8	1.4	0.7
2001-02						
IU Devices	66.9	0.2	1.8	7.9	25.4	31.6
Implant	5.0	0.1	0.6	1.3	2.0	1.0
2002-03						
IU Devices	67.8	0.3	2.2	7.9	25.3	32.2
Implant	7.8	0.2	1.2	2.4	2.7	1.4
2003-04						
IU Devices	58.8	0.2	2.0	7.4	22.3	26.9
Implant	12.4	0.3	2.2	3.6	4.2	2.1
IU System	10.2	0.0	0.2	0.9	3.5	5.7
2004-05						
IU Devices	50.1	0.3	1.7	6.2	18.8	23.1
Implant	16.6	0.4	3.1	4.7	5.6	2.8
IU System	13.2	0.0	0.2	1.1	4.8	9.1
2005-06						
IU Devices	49.1	0.2	1.5	6.0	18.8	22.7
Implant	25.7	0.8	5.6	7.3	8.1	3.9
IU System	19.6	0.0	0.3	1.5	5.8	11.9

Source:
The NHS Information Centre KT31 return.

First contacts with women at community contraceptive clinics by primary method of contraception and age each specified year England

Number of first contacts (Thousand)

	All ages	*Under 15*	*15*	*16-17*	*Age 18-19*	*20-24*	*25-34*	*35 and over*
2006-07								
IU Devices	47.0	0.1	0.1	0.5	1.0	5.8	18.4	21.2
IU System	24.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.4	1.9	6.9	14.6
Implant	35.7	0.4	1.0	3.7	4.4	9.9	11.0	5.3
2007-08								
IU Devices	46.7	0.1	0.1	0.5	1.0	5.9	18.7	20.4
IU System	25.2	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.4	1.9	7.3	15.3
Implant	46.8	0.6	1.4	5.3	5.8	12.9	14.5	6.3

Source:
The NHS Information Centre KT31 return.

Dementia

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how frequently the Older People and Dementia Programme Board meets; when the Board will decide on mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of the National Dementia Strategy; if he will publish the details of the monitoring arrangements once they are agreed; and if he will make a statement. [260673]

Phil Hope: The Department has decided that there is to be a separate National Dementia Strategy Programme Board. The frequency of meetings has not been set but the first meeting of this new board will be on 31 March 2009 and any decisions about the monitoring arrangements will be discussed at this time.

Dental Services: Dacorum

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people from Hemel Hempstead there were on the lists of NHS dentists in Dacorum in each of the last 15 years. [260567]

Ann Keen: Information is not available for years prior to 1997.

The number of patients registered with a national health service dentist, in England, as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 is available in Annex A of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006". Information is provided by primary care trust (PCT) and by strategic health authority (SHA). The boundaries used are as at 31 March 2006.

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. This report, published on 23 August 2006, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dwfactivity

Under the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, patients do not have to be registered with an NHS dentist to receive NHS care. The closest equivalent measure to 'registration' is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ("patients seen") over a 24-month period. However, this is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

The number of patients seen in the previous 24 months in England, as at quarterly intervals, from 31 March 2006 to 30 September 2008 is available in Table D3 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics, Quarter 2: 30 September 2008" report. Information is provided by PCT and SHA and is based on the PCT boundaries which came into effect on 1 October 2006.

This report, published on 26 February 2009, has been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0809q2

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dentists there were with practices in Dacorum in each of the last 15 years. [260568]

Ann Keen: The numbers of national health service dentists, as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 are available in Annex E of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006". Information is available by strategic health authority (SHA) and by primary care trust (PCT). The boundaries used are as at 31 March 2006. Validated information is not available for earlier years.

This measure counted the number of NHS dentists recorded on PCT lists as at 31 March each year. This information is based on the old contractual arrangements, which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. This report, published on 23 August 2006, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dwfactivity

The numbers of dentists with NHS activity during the years ending 31 March, 2007 and 2008 are available in Table G1 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2007-08" report. Information is provided by SHA and by PCT and is based on the PCT boundaries which came into effect on 1 October 2006. This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006. This report, published on 21 August 2008, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0708

Following a recent consultation exercise, this measure is based on a revised methodology and therefore supersedes previously published workforce figures relating to the new dental contractual arrangements. It is not comparable to the information collected under the old contractual arrangements. This revised methodology counted the number of dental performers with NHS activity recorded via FP17 claim forms in each year ending 31 March.

Further work is currently being undertaken to determine whether the new definition used under the new dental contractual arrangements can be applied to the years under the old contractual arrangements to produce a consistent time series.

Both sets of published figures relate to head counts and do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

Departmental Data Protection

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what scanning for vulnerabilities his Department conducts of each of its IT devices; what method is used for IT device scans; and how many vulnerabilities have been detected as a result of such scans in the last 12 months. [259720]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department uses outside specialist companies to carry out information technology security health checks of the Department's critical information systems and this routinely includes vulnerability scanning as part of the service. As these are project or system related there has been no requirement to consolidate records of vulnerabilities discovered as part of this process.

Departmental Equality

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* role and *(b)* objectives are of each of his Department's equality champions. [259645]

Phil Hope: The Department currently has four director general level equality champions as follows:

Race—Permanent Secretary, Hugh Taylor;

Disability—Chief Nursing Officer, Dame Christine Beasley;

Gender—Director-General Social Care, Local Government and Care Partnerships, David Behan; and

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender—Chief Medical Officer, Sir Liam Donaldson.

Their role is to provide leadership and support to staff and staff groups within the Department around each of the equality challenges listed, including speaking at staff events and providing mentoring and advice as necessary.

The Department is currently reviewing and strengthening all of its equalities and human rights functions; this will include functions that focus on the wider health and social care system as well those that look to support staff within the Department.

Diabetes: Norfolk

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to reduce the frequency with which type 2 diabetes is acquired in Norfolk. [259401]

Ann Keen: This Government continue to support the implementation of the Diabetes National Service Framework (NSF) and work with key partners to support the national health service in driving forward improvements in diabetes care, including the prevention of diabetes. The Department of Health, in partnership with NHS Diabetes (formerly known as the National Diabetes Support Team) and Diabetes UK, has published reports, documents and toolkits in a number of areas that are intended to provide quality information and standards for commissioners and health care providers to help them plan and deliver services envisaged in the NSF. However, primary care trusts are responsible for commissioning diabetes services that meet the needs of their whole population.

Diabetes: Obesity

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by his Department on promoting awareness of the link between obesity and diabetes in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [259994]

Ann Keen: Since 2005, the Department has through the Section 64 General Grant Scheme (now known as Third Sector Investment Programme), given a total of £305,976 in support of three project that include raising awareness of type 2 diabetes.

In January 2008, the Government launched "Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: A Cross Government Strategy for England", a copy of which has already been placed in the Library. As a part of this £372 million strategy, £75 million has been allocated for the Change4Life campaign. The campaign will support and encourage people to live healthily by helping them to make significant and sustained choices to behaviours around diet and physical activity. This will also prevent obesity and reduce the risk of developing type 2 diabetes and other cardiovascular diseases.

In addition, the NHS Next Stage Review, "High Quality Care for All", published on the 30 June 2008, announced the introduction of the 'Reduce your Risk' campaign, which will raise awareness of vascular disease risk factors (including diabetes). A copy of the publication has already been placed in the Library.

Doctors: Working Hours

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many junior doctors in each NHS Trust worked more than 56 hours per week in the latest period for which information is available. [259360]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally.

Genito-urinary Medicine

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent on genito-urinary medicine clinics in the last five years. [260419]

Dawn Primarolo: Estimated gross national health service expenditure on genitourinary medicine (GUM) for the period 2003-04 to 2006-07, the latest year for which figures are available, is set out in the following table. This includes expenditure on GUM clinics.

	Gross expenditure (£ million)
2003-04	2,809
2004-05	3,097
2005-06	3,507
2006-07	3,755

The introduction of new sub-categories and a change in the methodology means that a comparison between 2005-06 and 2006-07 is not possible.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients attended genito-urinary medicine clinics in the last five years. [260418]

Dawn Primarolo: Data are only available on the number of diagnoses made in a genitourinary medicine (GUM) clinic, not the number of patients diagnosed. Some individuals may be diagnosed with several co-infections and each diagnosis will be counted separately. The following table gives the total number of sexually transmitted infections (STI) and other diagnoses in a GUM clinic in England between 2003 and 2007, the latest year for which figures are available.

	New STI diagnoses	*Other STI diagnoses*[1]	*Other GUM clinic diagnoses*[2]
2003	311,572	185,285	312,113
2004	325,784	200,080	308,026
2005	327,911	219,096	303,523
2006	333,739	223,750	307,736
2007	354,628	239,364	351,974

[1] Includes recurrent and follow-up presentations.
[2] Includes other conditions requiring treatment such as candidiasis and urinary tract infections.
Notes:
1. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are for diagnoses made in GUM clinics only. Diagnoses made in other clinical settings, such as General Practice, are not recorded in the KC60 dataset.
2. The information provided has been adjusted for missing clinic data.
3. Data are unavailable for 2008.
Source:
Health Protection Agency, KC60 returns

Hospital Beds

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many beds there were in each NHS trust in England in each year from 2000-01 to 2007-08, with the data adjusted to reflect the current configuration of trusts. [259380]

Mr. Bradshaw: The number of occupied and available bed days and day only beds is collected annually, from national health service providers. The document, "Average daily number of available beds, NHS organisations in England, 2000-01 to 2007-08", which shows data for each organisation as they were submitted in the relevant year, thus reflecting the NHS structure at the time of the data collection, has been placed in the Library.

Bed numbers have fallen because hospitals are dealing with patients more efficiently and more people are treated in primary care settings—experts all agree that this is the best way to deliver health care to patients.

Advances in medical technology and shorter stays for routine operations mean fewer beds are needed across the service—this is part of a long-term downward trend in the average length of stay in hospital. But where the NHS needs more beds, there are more beds. For example, in day surgery, the number of day-only beds has increased by more than 29 per cent. since 2000-01, and we now have 55 per cent. more critical care beds and 116 per cent. more intermediate care beds than we had in 2000.

Hospitals: Standards

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what best practice guidelines have been issued by his Department on *(a)* the management of outpatient services and *(b)* the booking of appointments at NHS hospital trusts in the last 10 years. [259182]

Mr. Bradshaw: Due to the breadth of the question and the time period covered, it has been necessary to undertake a departmental library search using key word criteria taken from the question.

The results of the search can be found in the document, library search—best practice guidance out-patient services and booking of hospital appointments, which has been placed in the Library.

Current guidance in relation to choose and book is available from the choose and book website at:
www.chooseandbook.nhs.uk/staff/implement/guides

The National Health Service Institute for Innovation and Improvement has also published 'no delays' good practice guidance, which is available on their website at:
www.institute.nhs.uk/no_delays/introduction/no_delays.html

Ketamine

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were admitted to hospital because of the effects of the drug ketamine in each of the last five years. [260415]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not collected centrally.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been treated for ketamine addiction in each of the last five years. [260420]

Dawn Primarolo: Information about clients in contact with structured drug treatment in England is collected via the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS), which is managed by the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse.

NDTMS does not record ketamine separately from other hallucinogens which includes mescaline; psilocybin; lysergide (LSD); phencyclidine; dimethyltriptamine; bromodimethoxyphenethylamine as well as unspecified hallucinogens.

The following data refer to clients in structured drug treatment who identify hallucinogens as their main drug of misuse.

	All persons
2003-04	90
2004-05	127
2005-06	186
2006-07	240
2007-08	402

Medical Records: Databases

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to initiate the integration of Picture Archiving and Communications Systems images into the Care Records Service. [260364]

Mr. Bradshaw: Making electronic images captured via picture archiving and communications (PACS) systems, a component part of the national health service care record has been a core objective since the inception of the PACS project. Now that PACS systems have been deployed into every acute trust, the key integration challenge is how to integrate images and their related radiology reports so that the two are always associated.

Full integration of radiology reports and digital images to support clinical care represents a major development task and is incorporated in the requirements of our local service providers (LSP) and their respective solutions.

Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus Aureus

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) on what date the UK authorities were informed by Novartis that a staphylococcus aureas bacterial contamination had been found in a sample of the solvent used in meningitis C vaccine outside the UK; [260594]

(2) how many samples of meningitis C vaccine have been additionally tested for sterility in the UK following notification by Novartis of contamination of a sample elsewhere than in the UK; and when such tests were *(a)* begun and *(b)* completed; [260595]

(3) when the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency issued a cascade alert concerning the meningitis C vaccine. [260596]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department was informed by Novartis on 23 February 2009 that *staphylococcus aureus* bacterial contamination had been found in samples of the solvent used in meningitis C vaccine. The material in question had not been distributed in the United Kingdom but came from the same manufactured batches that had been distributed in the UK. The Department reminded Novartis of its statutory responsibility to inform the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). Novartis contacted the Defective Medicines Report Centre (DMRC) at MHRA on 24 February by telephone initially, then followed up with an e-mail.

The MHRA issued a class 2 drug alert on 25 February 2009. The drug alert informed recipients of the issue and identified potentially affected batches.

On the evening of 25 February 2009 a chief medical officer (CMO) message was sent via the central alert system (formerly known as the public health link) as a class 1, immediate action alert, for immediate cascade (within six hours) to relevant health professionals, including general practitioners (GPs) and practice nurses, accident and emergency departments and community pharmacists. At the same time a pager message was also sent that evening to all recipients of the CMO message, instructing them to immediately cascade this information to all relevant health professionals. Local immunisation co-ordinators are direct recipients of CMO messages via the central alert system, and would have received the electronic alert that night.

The Department's immunisation team separately contacted all primary care trusts immunisation co-ordinators on the evening of 25 February and informed them of the GP surgeries in their areas that had received the batches to be withdrawn.

The MHRA has arranged for additional sterility tests to be carried out on the affected solvent batch in the UK. A total of 120 solvent samples will be tested. The MHRA is awaiting delivery of test samples. Sterility testing takes at least 14 days, so the date on which the tests are completed will depend on when the samples are put on test. The MHRA understands that Novartis are testing an additional 360 solvent samples. Novartis testing started on 26 February 2009 and will be completed on 13 March 2009.

Myasthenia Gravis

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to support people with myasthenia gravis; and if he will make a statement. [259343]

Ann Keen: Although there is no cure for myasthenia gravis, those living with this condition are able to access the full range of national health service health and social care, as well a range of treatments that can control the distressing symptoms of this condition for most people. These can include the use of anticholinesterase drugs such as pyridostigmine, the surgical removal of the thymus gland, and drugs such as prednisolone (a steroid) and azathioprine that suppress the immune system.

NHS Treatment Centres: Southampton

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the NHS was of the refurbishment required for the new independent sector treatment centre in Southampton. [259938]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not collected centrally. The hon. Member may wish to raise this directly with the South Central Strategic Health Authority.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue costs of the implementation of picture archiving and communication systems in England have been since the inception of the NHS National Programme for IT. [260519]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department's central expenditure on picture archiving and communications (PACS) systems provided under national programme for information technology contracts has been on central development and management costs, and the cost of cluster-level data stores. The total of these costs, to 31 January 2009, are in the following table.

£ million

	Development/ management costs	*Data stores*
Revenue	18.6	44.497
Capital	0.46	93.037

The local deployment costs of PACS systems were paid by the relevant national health service trusts, details of which are not held centrally.

NHS: Public Appointments

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of chief executive officers of NHS trusts are clinically qualified. [260295]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

NHS: Publications

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what procedures are in place in his Department to ensure the accuracy of literature it produces relating to the provision of NHS services. [259171]

Mr. Bradshaw: Individual directorates within the Department are responsible for the content and accuracy of the literature they produce, including that relating to the provision of national health service (NHS) services. Where relevant, officials work closely with NHS colleagues. Approval procedures may vary in detail from directorate to directorate but will always include sign-off of content by a senior policy official.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recourse is available to individuals who dispute the accuracy of written information and literature produced by his Department on the provision of NHS services. [259173]

Mr. Bradshaw: Individuals who wish to comment on the accuracy of written information and literature by the Department on the provision of national health service services may write to the Department in the normal way.

Should they wish to make a formal complaint, they may do so to the Department's customer service centre. Each complaint is investigated thoroughly, and if upheld, recommendations are made internally to ensure that future service is improved. Wherever possible, the Department aims to respond to complainants within 20 working days.

Details of how to make a complaint to the Department can be found on the Department's website.

If a complainant is unhappy with the Department's response they may ask their Member of Parliament to request that the parliamentary and health service ombudsman investigates the complaint and the way it was handled. The ombudsman carries out independent investigations into complaints about Government Departments.

NHS: Standards

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to improve the measurement and analysis of health outcomes in NHS trusts. [260297]

Ann Keen: In November 2008, the Department set out the vision for developing quality indicators including outcomes of care, where available, and using them to improve the quality of services in the national health service in "Measuring for Quality Improvement (MQI)—The Approach". A copy of this document has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

MQI aims to support measurement at every tier of the NHS from national to local clinical team level, making available measures that already exist, enabling data to be collected and analysed, and facilitating new indicator development.

The Department is currently collating feedback on measurement requirements from a range of NHS and professional organisations and will shortly be publishing an 'assured menu' of available quality indicators for use at local level.

Strategic health authorities (SHAs) are establishing quality observatories, which will be centres of expertise in analysing these quality indicators to support quality improvement.

The Department is also working with NHS trusts and SHAs to identify the appropriate measures to report in quality accounts, which all NHS trusts will be obliged to publish, beginning in 2010.

NHS: Working Hours

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to his Department's implementation update for the European Working Time Directive, published on 30 January 2009, what comprehensive position statements on Working Time Directive readiness by specialty for each trust his Department has received from strategic health authorities; and if he will place a copy of each in the Library. [259303]

Ann Keen: The majority of United Kingdom doctors in training already work within the current hours requirement. The over riding objective of the UK Government in their health policy is to ensure the quality and safety of patient care.

We also want to ensure that health services are managed so that they provide doctors with a good work-life balance and quality training.

Many parts of the UK health services have already made good progress and successfully implemented sustainable solutions providing quality training and ensuring patient safety.

The Government are working together with health services and the representatives of the medical profession on the European Working Time Directive solutions. Clinical leadership is key to achieving a positive outcome.

We are still undertaking detailed analysis of the information from the quality assurance process.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of NHS organisations that will request exclusions and derogations from the requirements of the EU Working Time Directive in the next 12 months. [259379]

Ann Keen: There is no such estimate.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the percentage of hospital trusts which meet the requirements of the European Working Time Directive with which they must comply by August 2009. [259382]

Ann Keen: There is no such current estimate.

There is an absolute commitment to support the national health service in achieving compliance with the

European Working Time Directive by 1 August 2009. The expectation is that all services will strive to be fully compliant and all but a very few services with special difficulties will be compliant by this date.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what statistical analysis his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effects of the EU Working Time Directive on the NHS. [259384]

Ann Keen: The Department has requested data from strategic health authorities (SHAs) to try to gain the most accurate picture of European Working Time Directive compliance across the national health service through the quality assurance process.

We continue to work closely with SHA colleagues and medical representatives to analyse and evaluate in detail what the data show.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what measures and under what budgetary headings the funds allocated by his Department to support implementation of the EU Working Time Directive in 2009-10 will be spent. [259385]

Ann Keen: The Department is making a total of £310 million available by 2009-10 to support European Working Time Directive implementation in recurrent primary care trust allocations.

The funding should be targeted to services only where they meet one or more of the following conditions:

the services are planning to be compliant by 1 August 2009;

the services have a sustainable plan to meet compliance after 1 August 2009 and it has been agreed that their special difficulties warrant inclusion in the Working Time Regulation schedule; and

the services are already compliant but require ongoing support for this to continue.

Nuffield Speech and Language Unit

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Chief Executive of the Ealing Primary Care Trust and *(b)* the Chief Executive of the Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust on the future of the Nuffield Speech and Language Unit; [260510]

(2) what timetable he has set for the consultation on the future of the Nuffield Speech and Language Unit; [260511]

(3) how much the Nuffield Speech and Language Unit cost to operate in each year from 1997 to 2007; [260512]

(4) what the total cost to the public purse of *(a)* the suspension of activities at the Nuffield Speech and Language Unit, *(b)* the two previous consultations and *(c)* the current pre-consultation process has been; [260513]

(5) what alternative provision his Department has made for children with severe speech and language disorders following the suspension of activities at the Nuffield Speech and Language Unit in July 2007. [260514]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not held centrally and there have been no recent discussions or timetable set centrally. It is for primary care trusts in partnership with local stakeholders, including practice based commissioners, local government and the public to assess the needs of their local population and to commission services accordingly. This process provides the means for addressing local needs within the health community including the provision of speech and language therapy.

Nurses: Schools

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of trends in the volume of work undertaken by school nurses in the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [260328]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to recruit school nurses; what targets he has set for such recruitment; and what assessment he has made of performance against these targets. [260329]

Ann Keen: No assessment of the volume of work has been made centrally. It is for primary care trusts (PCTs) in partnership with local stakeholders to assess the needs of their local population and to commission services accordingly. This process provides the means for addressing local needs within the health community including the provision of school nursing services.

The Public Health White Paper, "Choosing Health: Making healthy choices easier", published in November 2004, included the commitment to provide new funding so that by 2010 every PCT, working with children's trusts and local authorities, will be resourced to have at least one full-time, year-round, qualified school nurse working with each cluster or group of primary schools and the related secondary school, taking account of health needs and school populations. It is for individual PCTs to determine how to use the funding allocated to them to commission services to meet the health care needs of their local populations.

Linking primary schools to their nearest secondary school gives 3,300 clusters in England. The 2007 workforce census showed there were 3,162 (2,232 full-time equivalent) qualified nurses working in school health services, an increase of 753 or 31.25 per cent. since 2004. Of these, there were 1,227 (893 whole-time equivalent) nurses with the post registration school nurse qualification. This is an increase of 371 or 43.3 per cent. since 2004. In addition, the number of nurses working in the community increased by 28,235 (37 per cent.) between 1997 and 2007.

Stem Cells: Research

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of *(a)* the time it will take for stem cell derived disease treatments to become available on the NHS and *(b)* the likely effect this will have on future health spending. [261091]

Dawn Primarolo: A number of stem cell-derived disease treatments are already available on the national health service, including bone marrow and umbilical cord blood transplantation for blood and immune system disorders, corneal transplantation for the victims of acid splashes to the eye and skin grafting for burns victims.

As for newer stem cell derived treatments, it is impossible to establish with any degree of accuracy when they will

become available on the NHS. There are still uncertainties about which stem cells work that will only be addressed by considerable amounts of laboratory and clinical research. As with earlier stem cell therapies, these newer stem cell therapies are likely to develop at varying rates and with varying efficiencies, depending on the disease and tissue involved. It is therefore impossible at this stage to assess the cost-benefit of newer stem cell derived treatments.

Thalidomide

Sir Robert Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the likely care needs for thalidomiders; and how those needs are planned to be met. [261214]

Dawn Primarolo: We have made no assessment of the likely care needs of those living with the effects of thalidomide.

Assessments of the health and social care needs of all patients, including those living with the effects of thalidomide, are made on an individual basis by health and social care professionals who then have responsibility for ensuring that these needs are met.

Working Hours

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to his Department's tariff uplift breakdown for 2009-10, if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's background analysis which indicates that an additional £150 million will be needed to support the implementation of the European Working Time Directive in 2009-10. [257559]

Ann Keen: The European Working Time Directive (EWTD) requires a 14 per cent. reduction in the maximum working hours of doctors in training, from 56 to 48 from August 2009. This equates to the hours provided by around 4,000 doctors in training. Implementation can be through a range of measures, including additional medical workforce capacity at either junior or senior level, new ways of working so that non-medical staff can take up duties currently done by doctors in training or through service redesign such as implementing hospital at night working practices.

The Department is making a total of £310 million available by 2009-10 to support implementation in recurrent primary care trust (PCT) allocations. In 2008-09, £110 million was included in the quantum of allocation funding in all PCTs receiving revenues growth of 5.5 per cent. In 2009-10, a further £200 million has been included in PCT revenue allocations, of which £150 million will flow through tariff income to trusts and the remaining £50 million in PCT revenue allocations will be targeted to trusts according to strategic health authority direction to support trained doctor solutions, particularly in paediatrics and anaesthetics.

The Department has estimated that the full cost of implementation could be around £300 million per year. This calculation is based on an analysis of the difference in doctors being 100 per cent. compliant at 56 hours and 100 per cent. compliant at 48 hours, so includes a valuation of:

difference in pay to existing doctors; and

assessment of the value of hours lost.

This level of detail information of the background analysis is not held centrally.

HEALTH

Questions for answer 9 March 2009

Accident and Emergency Departments

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS hospital trusts in England have more than one type 1 (major) accident and emergency department. [261376]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table lists the national health service hospital trusts in England, which have more than one type 1 (major) accident and emergency department.

Title: NHS organisations in England with more than one type 1 (major) accident and emergency department, 2008-09 October to December (Q3)

Organisation code	*Organisation name*
RF4	Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust
RVL	Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust
RXH	Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust
RXQ	Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust
RWY	Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust
RW3	Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
RXP	County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust
RP5	Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
RWH	East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust
RW	East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust
RXC	East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust
RVR	Epsom and St. Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust
RTE	Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
5QH	Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust
RR1	Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust
RYJ	Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust
RXN	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
RR8	Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

Title: NHS organisations in England with more than one type 1 (major) accident and emergency department, 2008-09 October to December (Q3)

Organisation code	*Organisation name*
RWF	Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust
RXF	Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust
RNL	North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust
RVW	North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust
RV8	North West London Hospitals NHS Trust
RJL	Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
RTF	Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
RTH	Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust
RW6	Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust
REF	Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust
RXK	Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust
RXW	Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals NHS Trust
RTR	South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust
RWD	United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust
RKB	University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust
RA7	University Hospitals of Bristol NHS Foundation Trust
RTX	University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust
RWG	West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust
RWP	Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust

Source:
Department of Health dataset QMAE. Published 13 February 2009.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many accident and emergency departments there are in each NHS hospital trust in England. [261377]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table shows the number of accident and emergency departments in each national health service hospital trust in England, according to latest information collected centrally in quarter 3 (October to December) 2008-09.

Number of accident and emergency departments, minor injury units and walk in centres, NHS organisations in England, 2008-09 October to December (Q3)

Organisation code	*Organisation name*	*Departments*
	England	590
REM	Aintree University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	1
RCF	Airedale NHS Trust	1
RBS	Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust	1
RTK	Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust	4
5HG	Ashton, Leigh and Wigan Primary Care Trust	1
5C2	Barking and Dagenham Primary Care Trust	2
RF4	Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	4
RVL	Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	2
5A9	Barnet Primary Care Trust	2
RFF	Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	1
RNJ	Barts and The London NHS Trust	2
RDD	Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	1
RN5	Basingstoke and North Hampshire NHS Foundation Trust	1
5FL	Bath and North East Somerset Primary Care Trust	2
RC1	Bedford Hospital NHS Trust	1
5QG	Berkshire East Primary Care Trust	1
5QF	Berkshire West Primary Care Trust	1
RQ3	Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	1
5PG	Birmingham East And North Primary Care Trust	2
5HP	Blackpool Primary Care Trust	1
RXL	Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	1
5HQ	Bolton Primary Care Trust	1
RAE	Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	1
RXH	Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	3
5QJ	Bristol Primary Care Trust	2
RG3	Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	2
RXQ	Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust	7
PJF	Burton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	1

Number of accident and emergency departments, minor injury units and walk in centres, NHS organisations in England, 2008-09 October to December (Q3)

Organisation code	Organisation name	Departments
5JX	Bury Primary Care Trust	2
RWY	Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust	2
RGT	Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	1
5PP	Cambridgeshire Primary Care Trust	2
5NG	Central Lancashire Primary Care Trust	1
RW3	Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	6
RQM	Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	1
RFS	Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	1
5C3	City and Hackney Teaching Primary Care Trust	1
RLN	City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust	3
RDE	Colchester Hospital University NHS Foundation Trust	3
5QP	Cornwall And Isles Of Stilly Primary Care Trust	10
RJR	Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	1
RXP	County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust	4
5MD	Coventry Teaching Primary Care Trust	1
5NE	Cumbria Primary Care Trust	6
5J9	Darlington Primary Care Trust	3
RN7	Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust	1
5N7	Derby City Primary Care Trust	1
RTG	Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	3
5N6	Derbyshire County Primary Care Trust	4
5QQ	Devon Primary Care Trust	18
RP5	Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	3
RBD	Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	1
5QM	Dorset Primary Care Trust	8
RC3	Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	1
RWH	East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust	2
5P3	East And North Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust	1
PJN	East Cheshire NHS Trust	3
RW	East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust	4
RXR	East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust	7
5NW	East Riding of Yorkshire Primary Care Trust	3
5P7	East Sussex Downs And Weald Primary Care Trust	3
RXC	East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	7
5QA	Eastern and Coastal Kent Primary Care Trust	6
RVR	Epsom and St. Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust	3
RDU	Frimley Park Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	2
RR7	Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust	1
5KF	Gateshead Primary Care Trust	1
RLT	George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust	1
RTE	Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	3
5QH	Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust	6
RN3	Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	1
5PR	Great Yarmouth And Waveney Primary Care Trust	3
PJ1	Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust	4
5NM	Halton And St. Helens Primary Care Trust	2
5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham Primary Care Trust	1
5QC	Hampshire Primary Care Trust	4
5C9	Haringey Teaching Primary Care Trust	1
RCD	Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust	1
5A4	Havering Primary Care Trust	1
5MX	Heart of Birmingham Teaching Primary Care Trust	1
RR1	Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust	3
RD7	Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	3
RLQ	Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust	1
5CN	Herefordshire Primary Care Trust	4
5NQ	Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale Primary Care Trust	1
5AT	Hillingdon Primary Care Trust	1
RQQ	Hinchingbrooke Healthcare NHS Trust	1
RQX	Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	2
RWA	Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	2

Number of accident and emergency departments, minor injury units and walk in centres, NHS organisations in England, 2008-09 October to December (Q3)

Organisation code	Organisation name	Departments
5NX	Hull Teaching Primary Care Trust	2
RYJ	Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust	4
RGQ	Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	1
5QT	Isle of Wight NHS Primary Care Trust	1
RGP	James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	1
5LA	Kensington and Chelsea Primary Care Trust	1
RNQ	Kettering General Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	4
RJZ	King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	2
RAX	Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	2
5N2	Kirklees Primary Care Trust	1
5J4	Knowsley Primary Care Trust	2
RXN	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	2
RR8	Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	4
5N9	Lincolnshire Primary Care Trust	1
5NL	Liverpool Primary Care Trust	4
REP	Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust	1
RC9	Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	1
5GC	Luton Teaching Primary Care Trust	1
RWF	Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust	3
5NT	Manchester Primary Care Trust	4
PJ6	Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	4
RPA	Medway NHS Foundation Trust	1
RBT	Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	2
RQ8	Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust	3
RJD	Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust	2
RXF	Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	3
RD8	Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	1
5CQ	Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust	1
RP6	Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	1
5D7	Newcastle Primary Care Trust	1
5C5	Newham Primary Care Trust	1
RNH	Newham University Hospital NHS Trust	1
RM1	Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	2
5PQ	Norfolk Primary Care Trust	1
RVJ	North Bristol NHS Trust	2
RNL	North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	2
5PW	North East Essex Primary Care Trust	3
RAP	North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	1
5M8	North Somerset Primary Care Trust	1
5PH	North Staffordshire Primary Care Trust	1
RVW	North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust	2
RV8	North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	4
5NV	North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust	5
RNS	Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust	3
5PD	Northamptonshire Primary Care Trust	1
RBZ	Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust	4
RJL	Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	3
RTF	Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	8
5EM	Nottingham City Primary Care Trust	1
RX1	Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	2
5N8	Nottinghamshire County Primary Care Trust	1
5J5	Oldham Primary Care Trust	1
RTH	Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust	1
5QE	Oxfordshire Primary Care Trust	4
RW6	Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	1
RGN	Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	4
5PN	Peterborough Primary Care Trust	3
RK9	Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust	4
5F1	Plymouth Teaching Primary Care Trust	2
RD3	Poole Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	1
5FE	Portsmouth City Teaching Primary Care Trust	2

Number of accident and emergency departments, minor injury units and walk in centres, NHS organisations in England, 2008-09 October to December (Q3)

Organisation code	Organisation name	Departments
RHU	Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust	1
RG2	Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	1
RGZ	Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	2
RPC	Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	3
5NA	Redbridge Primary Care Trust	1
5QR	Redcar And Cleveland Primary Care Trust	2
5M6	Richmond and Twickenham Primary Care Trust	1
5H8	Rotherham Primary Care Trust	1
RHW	Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust	3
RMC	Royal Bolton Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	1
REF	Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust	2
RH8	Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust	1
RAL	Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	1
RQ6	Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust	3
RA2	Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Trust	7
RD1	Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust	1
RPR	Royal West Sussex NHS Trust	1
5F5	Salford Primary Care Trust	3
RM3	Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust	1
RNZ	Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust	1
RXK	Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust	3
RCC	Scarborough and North East Yorkshire Healthcare NHS Trust	2
5NJ	Sefton Primary Care Trust	1
RCU	Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust	1
RHQ	Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	5
RK5	Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	2
RXW	Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals NHS Trust	3
5M2	Shropshire County Primary Care Trust	6
TAM	Solihull Care Trust	1
5QL	Somerset Primary Care Trust	9
5M1	South Birmingham Primary Care Trust	1
RA9	South Devon Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	1
5PK	South Staffordshire Primary Care Trust	2
RTR	South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust	2
RE9	South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust	2
RJC	South Warwickshire General Hospitals NHS Trust	2
5PY	South West Essex Primary Care Trust	1
5L1	Southampton City Primary Care Trust	3
RHM	Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	2
RAJ	Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	3
RVY	Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust	3
RJ7	St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust	1
RBN	St. Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust	2
RW3	Stockport NHS Foundation Trust	1
5PT	Suffolk Primary Care Trust	2
5KL	Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust	2
RTP	Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust	4
5P5	Surrey Primary Care Trust	6
5K3	Swindon Primary Care Trust	2
RMP	Tameside Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	1
RBA	Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust	1
5MK	Telford and Wrekin Primary Care Trust	1
RNA	The Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	1
RAS	The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	2
RJ2	The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	2
RTD	The Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	4
RQW	The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust	1
RCX	The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn NHS Trust	2
RFR	The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust	1
RDZ	The Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	2
RL4	The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust	2

Number of accident and emergency departments, minor injury units and walk in centres, NHS organisations in England, 2008-09 October to December (Q3)

Organisation code	*Organisation name*	*Departments*
RKE	The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	2
TAL	Torbay Care Trust	2
5C4	Tower Hamlets Primary Care Trust	1
RM4	Trafford Healthcare NHS Trust	2
RWD	United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust	6
RRV	University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	1
RRK	University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust	1
RJE	University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust	2
RM2	University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust	1
RKB	University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust	5
RA7	University Hospitals of Bristol NHS Foundation Trust	3
RWE	University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust	8
RTX	University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust	3
5N3	Wakefield District Primary Care Trust	3
RBK	Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust	2
5NC	Waltham Forest Primary Care Trust	1
5LG	Wandsworth Primary Care Trust	2
RWW	Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	2
5PM	Warwickshire Primary Care Trust	3
5PV	West Essex Primary Care Trust	1
RWG	West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	3
5P9	West Kent Primary Care Trust	4
RFW	West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	1
RGR	West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust	1
5P6	West Sussex Primary Care Trust	4
5LC	Westminster Primary Care Trust	1
RA3	Weston Area Health NHS Trust	1
RQF	Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	2
5QR	Wiltshire Primary Care Trust	2
RN1	Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust	2
5NK	Wirral Primary Care Trust	2
RBL	Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	1
5MV	Wolverhampton City Primary Care Trust	2
RWP	Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	3
5PL	Worcestershire Primary Care Trust	4
RPL	Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust	4
RRF	Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust	1
RA4	Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	1
RCB	York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	1
CWIC	NHS Walk in Centres, with a commuter focus	6

Note:
There are six NHS Walk in Centres, with a commuter focus which are provided across the country.
They are walk in centres based near commuter hubs with a remit to provide treatment for minor ailments/illness/injuries, for local residents and students, as well as commuters.
Source:
Department of Health dataset QMAE

Accident and Emergency Departments: Admissions

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many admissions to accident and emergency departments there were in each hospital trust in each day in February 2009. [261063]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information is not available in the format requested. However, information on the number of patients attending accident and emergency (A&E) departments is published quarterly via the Department of Health's QMAE dataset.

A table which shows the number of attendances at major accident and emergency departments, single speciality accident and emergency departments, other types of accident and emergency departments including minor injury and walk in centres for the most recent quarter, has been placed in the Library.

Cancer: Drugs

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of patients diagnosed with renal cell carcinoma who are expected to be suitable for sunitinib as a first-line therapy in the next 12 months, under the terms of the final approval determination issued by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. [260885]

Dawn Primarolo: We have made no such assessment. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

(NICE) will publish a costing tool alongside its final guidance on sunitinib (Sutent) for the treatment of advanced or metastatic renal cell carcinoma which will include an assessment of the patient population that will be eligible for treatment under NICE'S final recommendations.

Colorectal Cancer

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of his Department's progress in raising awareness of bowel cancer. [261568]

Ann Keen: The results of the first national cancer awareness survey, which will be published in the spring, will provide a baseline assessment of awareness in the general public of the risk factors and symptoms of cancer. From this baseline, we will be able to monitor changes in public awareness and the impact of interventions across all cancers.

Work to improve cancer symptom awareness and encourage earlier presentation across all cancers is being taken forward through the National Awareness and Early Diagnosis Initiative. Through the Improvement Foundation's Healthy Community Collaborative programme, 19 sites across the country are working to raise awareness of lung, breast and bowel cancers in their local communities. The Football Foundation's football pilot will also aim to raise awareness of lung, bowel and prostate cancer in men aged over 55.

Colorectal Cancer: Radiotherapy

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* longest and *(b)* average waiting time was for patients receiving radiotherapy treatment for bowel cancer in (i) Lancashire and (ii) England in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [261570]

Ann Keen: Statistics on average or maximum waiting times for cancer patients and average or maximum waiting times for specific cancer treatments are not collected centrally. The cancer waiting time standard of a maximum wait of 31 days from diagnosis to first cancer treatment was introduced for all cancer patients from December 2005. In the last quarter for which figures are available (October to December 2008), national performance against this standard was 99.5 per cent.

Colorectal Cancer: Screening

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people aged over 50 years were screened for bowel cancer in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* England in 2008; [261569]

(2) how many bowel cancer screening centres are operational in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* England; and if he will make a statement. [261572]

Ann Keen: The national health service bowel cancer screening programme in England invites men and women aged 60 to 69 to complete a testing kit to be screened for bowel cancer every two years. Men and women aged over 69 are able to self-refer for screening every two years.

In 2008, 67,756 men and women completed a testing kit in Lancashire, and 1,062,270 men and women completed a testing kit in England.

Lancashire is covered by four local bowel cancer screening centres (Bolton, Pennine, Lancashire and Cumbria and Westmorland), all of which are now operational. There are 43 local bowel cancer screening centres are currently operational in England out of a total of the 57 that will be operational once the programme is fully rolled out by December 2009.

Continuing Care

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of changes to the rules on eligibility for NHS continuing care introduced in 2007. [261495]

Phil Hope: Since the introduction of the National Framework for NHS Continuing Care on 1 October 2007, which introduced standardised eligibility criteria, the number of those in receipt of continuing care has increased from 27,822 at the end of September 2007 to 40,449 at the end of September 2008.

Departmental Absenteeism

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff of his Department were recorded absent for non-medical reasons on *(a)* 2 February 2009 and *(b)* 3 February 2009; what estimate he has made of the (i) cost to his Department and (ii) number of working hours lost resulting from such absence; and what guidance his Department issued to staff in respect of absence on those days. [260578]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department did not record centrally the numbers of staff who were absent for non-medical reasons on 2 and 3 February. Many staff were able to work remotely using their existing information technology facilities and capacity was increased to allow more concurrent remote users. With prior agreement with their managers staff were allowed to work from home on both days.

Guidance was issued to managers and staff confirming that those who were working on 2 February could leave work early to avoid the rush hour. It was made clear that every effort should be made by our staff to attend the office on 3 February. Managers also had the discretion to allow credits of flexi time or annual leave considering each case on its merits.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been claimed in reimbursable expenses by special advisers in his Department in 2008-09 to date. [260354]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Secretary of State for Health's special advisers have claimed £797.62 in reimbursable expenses since January 2008 up to 3 March 2009.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's entertainment budget was in each of the last five years. [261106]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not make specific budget provision for entertainment. The Department's Code of Business Conduct explicitly states that

"Departmental funds should never be used for providing entertainment".

The Department also does not make specific budget provision for hospitality. The Code of Business Conduct that 'hospitality' provided should be modest and necessary for the effective conduct of departmental business.

This is in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* food in each of the last five years. [261157]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not record expenditure on alcohol. The Department's code of business conduct requires that the "provision of alcohol as an element of hospitality must be limited and reasonable, and that any hospitality provided should be modest and necessary for the effective conduct of Departmental business." This is in accordance with the principles of the Treasury guidance 'Managing Public Money' and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

The Department has expended the following sums on food in the last five years:

	£
2003-04	546,926
2004-05	540,599
2005-06	559,924
2006-07	546,122
2007-08	581,353

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of letters sent by his Department were given to *(a)* the Royal Mail and *(b)* another postal services provider for delivery in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [259973]

Mr. Bradshaw: All letters issued from the Department's buildings are processed by Royal Mail.

Departmental Public Appointments

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the number of persons appointed to executive positions in bodies for which his Department has responsibility in the last five years who previously had careers in the banking industry. [261234]

Mr. Bradshaw: Executive appointments to the Department's arm's-length bodies, and to frontline national health service organisations, are normally made by the chairmen and non-executive directors of the bodies concerned. Accordingly, records of the previous employment of appointees are held locally. They are not collected centrally and to do so would impose a disproportionate burden and cost.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many public consultations his Department has conducted in the last 12 months; how long each consultation was open for; how many responses were received in each case; and what the cost of conducting each consultation was. [259573]

Mr. Bradshaw: Between 1 February 2008 and 31 January 2009, the Department launched 48 public consultations. Of these, 39 were open for 12 weeks or longer. The nine public consultations that were open for less than 12 weeks were either technical consultations; for example, the consultation on business case approval guidance for primary care trusts with existing Local Improvement Finance Trusts or were part of a policy development process involving a significant proportion of other stakeholder engagement activities. All of these shortened consultations had ministerial approval.

The Department does not hold information centrally about the numbers of responses received to public consultations, or their costs. This information can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Rail Travel

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to his Department was of travel by train by its staff in each year since 1997. [261210]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on train travel by staff of the Department is available only from July 2004. The following table details the yearly expenditure from July 2004 to date, on travel provided under the Department's centrally managed contract:

Period	£
July 2004 to March 2005	3,937,583.55
April 2005 to March 2006	5,001,426.70
April 2006 to March 2007	4,357,499.00
April 2007 to March 2008	4,924,064.00
April 2008 to February 2009	5,586,805.88

These figures do not include the costs of train journeys booked by individual members of staff, and claimed as expenses. This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on staff surveys in each of the last five years; and which companies were contracted to carry out the surveys. [260144]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has run annual staff surveys, in each of the last five years, all of which have been administered by Amey Performance Measurement Group.

	£
2008-09	30,373
2007-08	34,780
2006-07	24,346

	£
2005-06	18,833
2004-05	[1]

[1] Cost unavailable. To establish this would incur disproportionate cost.

In addition during February 2008, the Department carried out a one-off, specific, staff Health and Well-being survey, administered by Robertson Cooper. The cost of this survey was £28,783.

Departmental Training

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has provided voice coaching to any of its employees in the last 12 months. [260634]

Mr. Bradshaw: There is no central record available of anyone in the Department having been provided with voice coaching in the past 12 months. However records are not kept centrally of training provided locally by individual directorates. To establish what training, if any, was provided at that level, would incur disproportionate costs.

Eating Disorders

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* children and *(b)* adults were admitted to hospital for a suspected eating disorder in each of the last five years. [260485]

Phil Hope: Information is not collected on admissions for a suspected eating disorder. The data in the following table cover those who have received a formal diagnosis of anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa and other types of eating disorders including overeating.

Total admissions[1] into hospital where there was a primary diagnosis[2] of eating disorders[3] for children (0-18 year olds) (b) adults (19 and over) from 2003-04 to 2007-08: Activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

	Total (England)	18 and under	19 and over	Unknown
2007-08	1,967	970	996	1
2006-07	1,970	880	1,087	23
2005-06	1,933	794	1,132	9
2004-05	1,724	677	1,047	0
2003-04	1,622	717	904	1

[1] A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

[2] The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and 7 prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.

[3] International Classification of Diseases 10 (ICD) Diagnosis codes for 'Eating disorders':

Anorexia Nervosa:
F50.0 Anorexia nervosa
F50.1 Atypical anorexia nervosa
Bulimia Nervosa:
F50.2 Bulimia nervosa
F50.3 Atypical bulimia nervosa
Other eating disorders:
F50.4 Overeating associated with other psychological disturbances
F50.5 Vomiting associated with other psychological disturbances
F50.8 Other eating disorders
F50.9 Eating disorder, unspecified
F98.2 Feeding disorder of infancy and childhood
F98.3 Pica of infancy and childhood

HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity.

Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in the data, i.e. the data are ungrossed.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many 18 to 21-year-olds were admitted to each *(a)* hospital and *(b)* university hospital for bulimia in each of the last 10 years; [260922]

(2) how many 18 to 21-year-olds were admitted to each *(a)* hospital and *(b)* university hospital for anorexia in each of the last 10 years. [260923]

Phil Hope: The information we have regarding 18 to 21-year-olds who were admitted to hospital for bulimia and anorexia in each of the last 10 years has been placed in the Library.

Environmental Health: Restaurants

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number and percentage of restaurants which have been visited and inspected by local authority environmental health officers in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [261401]

Dawn Primarolo: Local authority returns to the Food Standards Agency (FSA) for the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007—the latest available 12 month period—reported that there were 386,206 United Kingdom restaurant and catering businesses, of which 246,279 (63 per cent.) received an official control inspection or visit during that period.

A total of 397,865 inspections or visits were carried out, some premises being inspected or visited more than once during this period.

Official control inspections and visits cover both food hygiene and food standards (i.e. food labelling and composition) arrangements.

Full UK data on all local authority food control enforcement activity are available on the FSA website:

www.food.gov.uk

Food Poisoning

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of food poisoning by *(a)* salmonella, *(b)* campylobacter, *(c)* E. coli and *(d)* other food-borne pathogens were recorded in each of the last five years. [261501]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of laboratory-confirmed cases of United Kingdom-acquired salmonella, campylobacter, E. coli 0157, clostridium perfringens, and listeria monocytogenes infections in each of the last five years is shown in the following table.

The most recent data available at present are from 2007.

The Food Standards Agency has monitored the number of cases of these five key food-borne pathogens in the UK since 2000.

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Salmonella	13,207	12,344	10,220	10,970	10,245
Campylobacter	41,283	39,822	41,882	42,360	46,629
E. coli 0157	777	819	1,029	1,146	976
Clostridium perfringens	78	527	545	156	73
Listeria monocytogenes	248	230	220	208	254
Total	55,593	53,742	53,896	54,840	58,177

Source:
Health Protection Agency, Health Protection Scotland, Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre Northern Ireland.

Health Services: Republic of Ireland

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 216-7W, on health services: Republic of Ireland, how much the Government has paid to the Republic of Ireland under the bilateral agreement in each year since the agreement came into force. [260832]

Dawn Primarolo: The bilateral agreement between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland has been in place since 1971. Data relating to payments made are not available going back this far. According to departmental data, under the terms of the agreement, the UK has paid the Republic of Ireland around €2 billion over last five years. The majority of these payments related to the provision of health care for around 50,000 pensioners that the UK pays for each year in the Republic of Ireland.

Hospitals

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps were taken by his Department to consult NHS staff on the development of administrative systems within NHS hospital trusts in the last three years. [259180]

Mr. Bradshaw: Over the past three years, the Choose and Book programme has conducted stakeholder engagement on the future development of the Choose and Book application via various stakeholder forums. Representatives from national health service hospital trusts are members of the National Clinical Reference Panel; National Design Steering Group; local and strategic health authority user groups; National Specialty Reference Group; and the clinical leadership team.

Hospitals: Admissions

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients spent a night in hospital but not in a *(a)* hospital bed and *(b)* ward in each of the last five years. [260417]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not collected centrally. You may wish to contact your local national health service organisations for further information.

Hospitals: Malnutrition

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1029W, on malnutrition, how many people were *(a)* admitted to and *(b)* discharged from each NHS hospital with a primary or secondary diagnosis of (i) malnutrition, (ii) nutritional anaemias and (iii) other nutritional deficiencies in each year from 1997-98 to 2007-08. [261614]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 6 March 2009]:* We regret the delay in placing this information in the Library. As set out in my earlier answer, the information requested requires intensive and time-consuming use of statistical information systems. A copy of the information has been placed in the Library.

Influenza: Vaccination

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government has taken to publicise the availability of influenza vaccinations in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [260797]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department ran the annual national influenza immunisation communications campaign with television, radio, and pharmacy bag advertising from early October to mid November 2008, and with online and public relations activity continuing into December. There was also additional radio advertising in late November/early December in the south east of England, where vaccine takeup was lower.

Leaflets, posters and an online toolkit were also made freely available for the national health service to support their local activities.

Primary care trusts covering the north east, the Tees Valley and Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland constituency implemented the national influenza campaign.

Learning Disability: Social Services

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much each local authority has spent on adult learning disability services in each year since 1997; and by how much each authority *(a)* exceeded or *(b)* underspent its budget for such services in each such year. [260528]

Phil Hope: Data on local authority expenditure on state funded care are collected and published by the NHS information centre for health and social care. Tables, showing the gross current expenditure by councils with adult social services responsibilities on adults aged

18 to 64 with learning disabilities as their primary client group between 1997-98 and 2007-08, in both cash and real terms respectively, have been placed in the Library.

Data on how much each authority exceeded or underspent its budget for adult learning disability services are not collected centrally.

Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust: Correspondence

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will direct the Chief Executive of the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust to reply to the outstanding issues raised by the right hon. Member for Tonbridge and Malling in his letters to him of 26 August 2008 and 11 December 2008 following the death of a child of his constituents. [261574]

Ann Keen: We were concerned to learn about the delay in the hon. Member receiving a response from the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS trust. Departmental officials have investigated and we are assured that Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS trust will respond to the hon. Member by 11 March 2009.

Memory Clinics

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to his Dementia Strategy, published on 3 February 2009, how many memory clinics there are in the NHS; how many memory clinics he intends to establish; and by what date. [262302]

Phil Hope: Information on the number of memory clinics there are in the national health service is not collected centrally. The decisions about the establishment of memory services will be made locally by primary care trusts.

Mental Health Services

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average daily cost of keeping a person in *(a)* high secure and *(b)* medium secure mental health accommodation was in the latest period for which information is available; and how many (i) beds and (ii) vacant beds there were in each type of accommodation on 31 January in each year from 2000 to 2009. [260432]

Phil Hope: The average cost per high secure bed in 2008-09, based on service level agreements, is £286,740 per annum and the average cost per medium secure bed per bed day is £453.

Note:

The figure for medium secure beds is for NHS trusts and primary care trusts combined and is sourced from Schedule 4 of the 2006-07 Reference Costs (published February 2008).

We do not collect data on bed availability in medium secure units centrally.

The number of beds currently available in high secure services is shown in the following table.

	Beds currently available Number
Male mental illness and personality disorder	673
Learning disability	48
Female mental illness and personality disorder	50
Dangerous and severe personality disorder	108

We do not collect the average occupancy of beds rates in each category for each of the last three years. What data we do have are contained in the following tables.

Current occupancy rates at 30 September 2008

	Percentage
Male mental illness and personality disorder	90.6
Learning disability	89.6
Female mental illness and personality disorder	88
Dangerous and severe personality disorder	83.3
Overall occupancy rate	90.4

Note:

This excludes patients on trial leave i.e. patients who are staying in medium security as part of their progression plan.

Month/year	*Beds*	*Occupancy rates (percentage)*
September 2007	790	93.2
September 2006	879	90.2
December 2005	899	92.1

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1196W on mental health services, how many primary care trusts provide computerised cognitive behavioural therapy approved by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) for the treatment of depression; and what steps he has taken to ensure that NICE Technology Appraisal 97 is implemented in all primary care trusts at the required level to meet known need; [260948]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure that people suffering from depression are able to access therapy treatments to which they are entitled; [260949]

(3) pursuant to the answer of 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1196W on mental health services, what assessment he has made of the levels of availability of psychological therapies approved by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence for *(a)* guided self-help, *(b)* counselling, *(c)* computerised cognitive behavioural therapy and *(d)* behavioural activation and exercise. [260950]

Phil Hope: Compliance with clinical guidelines published by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) forms part of the developmental standards for the national health service and NHS organisations are expected to move towards their full implementation. The Department recognises the important contribution of the effective provision of computerised cognitive behavioural therapy (cCBT) and primary care trusts (PCTs) are obliged to provide funding for NICE-recommended cCBT packages where clinicians want to use them, however, the Department does not collect information on the uptake of cCBT.

The core aim of the Departments Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) programme is to support the NHS to implement the NICE guidelines and deliver effective treatment for people with depression and anxiety disorders.

The Government have provided substantial new funding to increase services over the next three years:

£33 million for 2008-09;

a further £70 million to a total of £103 million in 2009-10; and

a further £70 million to a total of £173 million in 2010-11.

This funding will allow regional training programmes to deliver 3,600 newly trained therapists with an appropriate skill mix and supervision arrangements by 2010-11 and 900,000 people to access IAPT services.

The core aim of the Department's IAPT programme is to support the NHS to implement the NICE guidelines and deliver effective treatment for people with depression and anxiety disorders.

The NHS Operating Framework 2008-09 states that to prepare for the new IAPT services being available more widely in the future, all PCTs need to plan how they will implement a stepped-care psychological therapies service. The first step is to carry out a needs assessment of their local population and scope their state of readiness to deliver IAPT services in preparation for becoming an IAPT site in the future. Strategic health authorities have committed to supporting and monitoring all PCTs in improving their psychological therapy services through routine commissioning. However, it is not possible to identify the availability of specific treatments, as information of this nature is not collected centrally.

Mental Health Services: Young People

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will estimate the number of people who required access to child and adolescent mental health services in each year since 1997. [261177]

Phil Hope: Information is not collected on the number of children and young people seeking access to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). However, the annual CAMHS Mapping Exercise conducted by Durham university for the Department of Health and the Department for Children, Schools and Families collects information on the caseload of CAMHS above the level of primary care (Tiers two to four). The following table details the total caseload (which includes active cases and consultations) for Tiers two to four CAMHS in each year since 2003 when annual mapping commenced.

	Total caseload
2003	86,521
2004	104,744
2005	112,984
2006	169,029
2007	159,727

Note:
The mapping exercise is voluntary and therefore participation, although consistently high, varies each year. Therefore, comparisons between years should be treated with care.

Mentally Ill: Young People

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many 18 to 21-year-olds were admitted to *(a)* all hospitals and *(b)* university hospitals for mental health conditions in each of the last 10 years, broken down by (i) hospital and (ii) type of condition. [260921]

Phil Hope: The figures requested on general mental health conditions have been placed in the Library.

NHS Treatment Centres: Private Sector

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether patients transferred from an NHS hospital to an independent sector treatment centre are covered by NHS indemnity arrangements. [259944]

Mr. Bradshaw: Yes. There is a process in place regarding the transfer of patients from a national health service (NHS) hospital to an independent sector treatment centre. Provided this process is followed, all such patients will be covered by NHS indemnity arrangements.

NHS Treatment Centres: Southampton

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many scheduled operations at Southampton independent sector treatment centre have been cancelled by his Department. [259945]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not cancel operations. However in February 2009, based on advice received from the NHS Litigation Authority, instructions were issued to the NHS trust to reschedule three planned operations.

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many doctors from Southampton General hospital have been seconded to the independent sector treatment centre in Southampton in each month since its establishment; and if he will make a statement. [259946]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not collected centrally. This information will become available from the Department from April 2009.

NHS: Databases

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the development costs of the NHS Summary Care Record database have been; and what the estimated annual running costs of the database are. [256075]

Mr. Bradshaw: The approach to deliver a summary care record (SCR) was defined by a taskforce that published its report in December 2006. A copy has been placed in the Library. This proposed the creation of the SCR from general practitioners' (GP) records uploaded from GP systems and stored on the 'spine' database. Expenditure to 28 February 2009 to achieve this has amounted to £18.7 million.

Prior to the taskforce, the approach was for a personal health record to build up gradually over time as new systems were developed and deployed and to be a part

of the wider personal spine information services (PSIS) within the spine. PSIS was one of the original elements of the spine development along with transaction and messaging services, clinical spine application services, security and access controls, personal demographics service and directory services that support, not only SCR but all other clinical information flows. Costs specific to this earlier approach are not separately identifiable within the spine contract costs.

The ongoing service costs for the SCR are not calculated separately from the service costs for the whole of the spine. The anticipated future maintenance charges covering all the completed core functionality of the spine, for the remaining period of the contract, are in the following table.

Financial year	*Maintenance charge[1] (£000)*
2009-10	44,730
2010-11	43,734
2011-12	35,967
2012-13	31,119
2013-14	6,841

[1] At 2009 prices, excluding VAT

NHS: Discrimination

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to reduce the incidence of *(a)* bullying and *(b)* disability discrimination in NHS organisations. [261842]

Phil Hope: The NHS Constitution for England, published on 21 January 2009, makes clear that staff have a right to work in an environment free from bullying, harassment, verbal or physical violence and unlawful discrimination on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion or belief and disability from patients, the public or staff. A copy of the publication has already been placed in the Library.

Every organisation should have in place a policy on equality and diversity enabling people from the widest range of backgrounds to join and progress through the organisation, and a zero tolerance approach to unlawful discrimination, bullying and harassment. The national health service provides a comprehensive service, available to all irrespective of disability, and has a wider social duty to promote equality.

NHS: Drugs

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress he has made on the implementation of the recommendations of the Richards Report on improving access to medicines for NHS patients. [261843]

Alan Johnson: The Department is making good progress on implementing all of the recommendations of the Richards report. For example, we have already implemented recommendations 1, 3 and 5, and with the forthcoming publication of the final guidance on additional private care, we will have implemented recommendations 7, 8, 9, 10 and 14. The remaining recommendations require ongoing work over the course of 2009, but in all cases this work is already under way.

NHS: Energy

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much was spent by each health trust in England on each type of energy purchased through the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency contract in 2008-09; [261484]

(2) how many units were consumed by each health trust in England of each type of energy purchased through the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency contract in 2008-09. [261485]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on the amount spent or the units consumed by each trust on energy through the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (NHS PASA) contracts is not collected centrally. However NHS PASA manages energy frameworks used by approximately 85 per cent. of the national health service representing around 7.0 terra watt hours (tWh) of gas and 2.4 tWh of electricity, or about 10 per cent. of the United Kingdom public sector total. The profiles and spend for 2008-09 are as follows:

Gas: 206,679,735 Therms/£133,518,517;

Electricity Non Half Hourly: 202,448 Megawatt/£12,228,270; and

Electricity Half Hourly: 2,431,025 Meg[illegible]/£173,869,036.

NHS: Equality

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 241W, on NHS: equality, when he expects the advisory group on the implications of age discrimination legislation for the NHS to publish its future programme of work; on what date the advisory group first met; for what reasons he expects that the advisory group's work will take 18 months to complete; and if he will make a statement. [260879]

Phil Hope: The programme of work for the advisory group on tackling age discrimination in health and social care was published in the written ministerial statement issued on 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 46-48WS. The advisory group held its first meeting on 26 January 2009. The group's remit includes consideration of age-specific issues in health and social care to inform secondary legislation which will apply the provisions of the Equality Bill in that sector, and also what help and guidance may be needed to support service providers to comply with the provisions of the legislation. It is estimated that this programme, including production of help and guidance, will take until summer 2010 to complete. Where it is possible and helpful to make any findings or conclusions available earlier than summer 2010, we will do so.

NHS: Fees and Charges

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what evaluation he has made of the results of his Department's consultation on draft guidance on NHS patients who wish to pay for additional private care; and when he expects to issue the guidance. [261844]

Alan Johnson: The Department is currently considering the results of the consultation on national health service patients who wish to pay for additional private care. We will be issuing the final guidance, alongside a consultation response, shortly.

NHS: Finance

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which capital investment programmes in NHS hospitals announced by the Government since 1997 have not been fulfilled; what the reason was in each case; and how much the capital investment was originally estimated to be in each case. [261092]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested on centrally monitored schemes (capital value £10 million or over) is in the following table. All these schemes were taken forward as private finance initiative (PFI) proposals.

	Hospital build schemes cancelled	*Reason for cancelling scheme*	*Original estimated capital value (£ million)*
1997-98	Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust[1]	Value for money decision at full business case stage	24
	Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust[1]	Value for money decision at full business case stage	24
	Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust[1]	Value for money decision at full business case stage	74
	Guys and St. Thomas NHS Foundation Trust[1]	Value for money decision at full business case stage	50
2000-01	Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust[1]	Value for money decision at full business case stage	13
	Hampshire PCT[2]	Value for money decision at full business case stage	20
	Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust[3]	Value for money decision at full business case stage	11
	Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust[3]	Value for money decision at full business case stage	14
2003-04	East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust	Pre full business case local service need and value for money review	102
2004-05	Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	Pre full business case local service need and value for money review	116
2005-06	Imperial College Healthcare/Royal Brampton and Harefield NHS Trusts — 'Paddington Basin'	Pre full business case local service need and value for money review	300
2006-07	Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust	Pre full business case local service need and value for money review	79
	Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust	Pre full business case local service need and value for money review	101
2007-08	Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	Pre full business case local service need and value for money review	184
	South Devon Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	Pre full business case local service need and value for money review	65
	University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust	Pre full business case local service need and value for money review	286
	United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust	Pre full business case local service need and value for money review	80
	Southend Hospital NHS Trust	Pre full business case local service need and value for money review	100
	Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust	Pre full business case local service need and value for money review	110
	Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust	Pre full business case local service need and value for money review	50
	Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	Pre full business case local service need and value for money review	229
2008-09	Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	Pre full business case local service need and value for money review	139
	Taunton and Somerset NHS Trust	Pre full business case local service need and value for money review	57
	North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	Pre full business case local service need and value for money review	305
	Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Trust	Pre full business case local service need and value for money review	200
	Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	Pre full business case local service need and value for money review	40

Notes:
[1] These prospective PFI schemes subsequently went ahead using public capital.
[2] This prospective public capital funded scheme was re-tendered as a PFI scheme and opened to patients in January 2007.
[3] These schemes were incorporated into larger PFI schemes which are now under construction.

NHS: Negligence

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 661W, on NHS negligence, if he will publish the breakdown of the global contribution in each year since 1997 on the same basis as the estimated figures for 2009-10 given in the Answer. [260826]

Ann Keen: The NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) does not have this information for years prior to 2009-10 and to obtain it would be at disproportionate cost. The NHSLA only has data for 2009-10 because they asked actuaries to provide a more detailed analysis once the initial estimate showed an increase on the previous year.

NHS: Prescriptions

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department is taking to prevent the over-prescription of medicines within the NHS; [261088]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the cost to the NHS of over-prescription of medicines in *(a)* England and *(b)* within the geographical area now covered by NHS Cumbria since 1997. [261089]

Dawn Primarolo: Research to determine the scale and cost of waste medicines is progressing. The research findings are expected later in 2009 and will inform the development of Government policy for influencing both health professionals and members of the public to reduce the amount of unwanted medicines and provide better value for money for the national health service.

The Department currently supports a range of initiatives including repeat dispensing and medicines use reviews, through the contractual framework for community pharmacy, where pharmacists help patients get the most from their medicines, while at the same time minimising wastage by optimising use.

A number of primary care trusts (PCTs) in the North West have participated in a regional medicines waste campaign. However, Cumbria PCT has developed its own campaign working with local stakeholders and media. In terms of media coverage, the PCT recently published an article in its in-house magazine promoting the issue, and advising readers on ways to minimise medicine wastage (featured in December 2008 issue). The PCT is also conducting a 'returned medicine' audit to establish what medicines are returned to community pharmacies and why. Linked to the nationally commissioned research, the university of York is helping analyse the results for Cumbria PCT and the findings are expected later this year.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS has spent on drugs of all types in each year since 1997 in *(a)* England and *(b)* the geographical area now covered by NHS Cumbria. [261090]

Dawn Primarolo: Information for expenditure on drugs by the national health service in England since 1996-97 is provided as follows:

Drugs bill expenditure, England

	Total outturn expenditure (£ million)
Cash terms[1]	
1996-97	4,735
1997-98	5,173
1998-99	5,550
1999-2000	6,202
Resource terms[1]	
2000-01	6,688
2001-02	7,446
2002-03	8,355
2003-04	9,271
2004-05	9,966
2005-06	9,979
2006-07	10,545
2007-08	10,925

[1] From 2000-01 figures are in resource terms and represent the cost of prescriptions prescribed in the period April to March. Figures prior to 2000-01 are in cash terms and represent reimbursement payments made from April to March for prescriptions prescribed in February to January.

Sources:

1. Prescription Services Division, the NHS Business Services Authority, England.
2. Department of Health Finance Division; Foundation Trust year-end accounts.

Primary care trust (PCT) level data on prescriptions dispensed in the community are only held for the latest 60 months. The following table provides net ingredient cost (NIC) figures for prescriptions prescribed in the Cumbria area and dispensed in the community in the United Kingdom, 2004 to 2008.

Cumbria PCT area[1]*, all prescribing*[2]

	NIC (£ million)
2004 (includes all of Morecambe Bay)	113.4
2005 (includes all of Morecambe Bay)	109.7
2006 (includes all of Morecambe Bay)	106.6
2007 (includes all of Morecambe Bay)	89.6
2008 (excluding part of Morecambe Bay)	88.1

[1] Cumbria PCT came into existence in October 2006 and was formed by the merger of Carlisle and District PCT, Eden Valley PCT, West Cumbria PCT and the South Lakeland part of Morecambe Bay PCT. The figures provided for 2004 and 2005 are the sum of Carlisle and District PCT, Eden Valley PCT, West Cumbria PCT and Morecambe Bay PCT. The figures for 2006 and 2007 are the combination of the figures for these PCTs plus the figures for Cumbria PCT (prescriptions are valid for six months and prescriptions for the PCTs which were abolished in 2006 continued to be dispensed in 2007 although the numbers were small). As only part of Morecambe Bay went into Cumbria PCT it is not possible to provide exact figures over this time period for the area currently covered by Cumbria PCT.
The figures for 2008 are for Cumbria PCT.

[2] The figures include prescribing of all medicines, including drugs, appliances, dressings and devices.

Source:
Prescribing Analysis and CosT tool (PACT) system.

NHS: Standards

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS trusts *(a)* use patient recorded outcome measures (PROMS) and *(b)* have purchased PROMS IT systems. [260317]

Mr. Bradshaw: From 1 April 2009 all providers of national health service-funded care who are subject to the terms of the standard NHS contract for acute services are obliged to invite patients undergoing hip

and knee replacements, groin hernia and varicose vein surgeries to complete patient reported outcome measures (PROMs) questionnaires. The Department is aware of a number of examples where providers are involved currently in local PROMs data collection exercises although there is no central register of these activities.

The Department has no central record of purchases of information technology systems to support PROMs data collections by individual NHS trusts.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will consider the merits of exempting patients with sickle cell disease and thalassaemia from prescription charges from April 2009; and if he will make a statement. [260855]

Dawn Primarolo: We have asked the president of the Royal College of Physicians (Professor Ian Gilmore) to carry out a review of prescription charges that will consider how to implement the commitment to exempt patients with long-term conditions from prescription charges. The review is due to make its recommendations to ministers in summer 2009.

The review is engaging widely with stakeholders to seek the views of patients, the public, patient representative bodies, clinicians and healthcare organisations.

The all party parliamentary group on Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia has provided written evidence to the review.

RU486

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women in each age group and region taking mifepristone required further treatment because the womb was not completely emptied of its contents or it failed to end the pregnancy in each of the last five years for which figures are available, broken down by length of gestation of the pregnancy. [261579]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Social Services: Elderly

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much each local authority spent on domiciliary care for older people *(a)* in total and *(b)* per person in such care in 2008-09. [261493]

Phil Hope: We are informed by the Information Centre for health and social care that information on expenditure by local authorities on domiciliary care for 2008-09 will not be available until later in 2009. Gross expenditure and the average annual gross total cost per person for domiciliary care for 2007-08 by councils with adult social services responsibilities (CASSRs) is shown in the following table.

Total amounts spent on domiciliary care[1] and the average annual cost of domiciliary care for older people (aged 65 and over) for each local authority in 2007-08

CASSR	Gross current expenditure on domiciliary care (£000)	Average annual gross total cost per person receiving domiciliary care[2] (£)
Barnsley	13,800	2,025
Birmingham	59,800	3,954
Bolton	18,700	3,620
Bradford	31,800	3,691
Bury	9,000	3,161
Calderdale	13,100	3,484
Coventry	29,200	9,862
Doncaster	16,700	4,892
Dudley	19,300	2,341
Gateshead	19,400	3,576
Kirklees	23,500	2,511
Knowsley	10,300	3,449
Leeds	45,900	4,086
Liverpool	58,100	6,515
Manchester	34,300	4,817
Newcastle upon Tyne	21,300	3,976
North Tyneside	12,700	2,528
Oldham	19,100	6,604
Rochdale	11,800	2,857
Rotherham	21,000	5,077
Salford	14,700	2,560
Sandwell	23,500	3,466
Sefton	17,600	2,929
Sheffield	41,200	3,777
Solihull	12,100	2,300
South Tyneside	13,000	3,443
St. Helens	16,200	3,163
Stockport	13,000	2,694
Sunderland	18,200	2,616
Tameside	12,500	2,581
Trafford	11,300	2,158
Wakefield	20,600	3,989
Walsall	19,200	4,655
Wigan	14,000	2,831
Wirral	18,200	3,086
Wolverhampton	18,900	4,045
Bedfordshire	18,000	2,781
Buckinghamshire	25,800	3,291
Cambridgeshire	36,400	3,659
Cheshire	42,400	3,754
Cornwall	26,200	1,396
Cumbria	31,200	2,956
Derbyshire	51,700	2,701
Devon	33,000	2,162
Dorset	25,600	3,972
Durham	36,700	3,501
East Sussex	32,700	3,111
Essex	85,800	3,358
Gloucestershire	26,900	2,024
Hampshire	56,800	1,010
Hertfordshire	53,200	3,081
Isles of Scilly	100	1,679
Kent	76,800	2,730
Lancashire	74,900	3,776
Leicestershire	39,500	3,562
Lincolnshire	35,400	2,295
Norfolk	44,800	2,515
North Yorkshire	34,200	2,177
Northamptonshire	24,700	2,537
Northumberland	24,000	2,373
Nottinghamshire	40,200	2,751
Oxfordshire	31,500	2,606

Total amounts spent on domiciliary care[1] and the average annual cost of domiciliary care for older people (aged 65 and over) for each local authority in 2007-08

CASSR	Gross current expenditure on domiciliary care (£000)	Average annual gross total cost per person receiving domiciliary care[2] (£)
Shropshire	12,900	1,866
Somerset	34,700	1,654
Staffordshire	51,400	3,209
Suffolk	34,800	2,528
Surrey	40,400	2,936
Warwickshire	36,700	3,934
West Sussex	42,400	2,926
Wiltshire	19,200	2,059
Worcestershire	33,200	2,866
Bath and North East Somerset UA	6,700	2,152
Blackburn with Darwen UA	7,500	3,982
Blackpool UA	9,600	3,561
Bournemouth UA	11,300	2,810
Bracknell Forest UA	4,600	2,219
Brighton and Hove UA	17,600	3,010
Bristol UA	25,900	3,264
Darlington UA	4,400	2,184
Derby UA	12,300	2,057
East Riding of Yorkshire UA	11,300	1,237
Halton UA	7,500	2,426
Hartlepool UA	6,300	2,339
Herefordshire UA	8,800	2,634
Isle of Wight UA	10,400	2,547
Kingston upon Hull UA	11,400	1,899
Leicester UA	18,100	4,683
Luton UA	11,300	5,343
Medway Towns UA	14,900	2,729
Middlesbrough UA	7,200	2,875
Milton Keynes UA	10,100	2,884
North East Lincolnshire UA	10,600	2,572
North Lincolnshire UA	9,600	3,241
North Somerset UA	11,500	3,252
Nottingham UA	16,500	3,685
Peterborough UA	8,100	2,645
Plymouth UA	11,900	2,454
Poole UA	9,900	2,242
Portsmouth UA	9,800	2,288
Reading UA	9,100	3,486
Redcar and Cleveland UA	9,600	3,066
Rutland UA	1,200	1,432
Slough UA	5,900	3,545
South Gloucestershire UA	12,000	2,243
Southampton UA	15,300	2,999
Southend-on-Sea UA	10,100	2,860
Stockton-on-Tees UA	7,400	1,647
Stoke-on-Trent UA	14,600	2,834
Swindon UA	8,500	2,505
Telford and the Wrekin UA	7,600	2,113
Thurrock UA	7,400	3,093
Torbay UA	8,200	2,313
Warrington UA	10,900	2,353
West Berkshire UA	8,600	3,319
Windsor and Maidenhead UA	7,500	2,858
Wokingham UA	6,100	3,640
York UA	9,500	2,564
Camden	21,900	6,119
City of London	1,300	8,694
Greenwich	15,000	4,746
Hackney	22,700	9,384
Hammersmith and Fulham	14,500	5,799
Islington	19,600	7,339
Kensington and Chelsea	10,400	3,549
Lambeth	15,900	3,725
Lewisham	18,400	6,871
Southwark	17,100	5,345
Tower Hamlets	19,400	6,363
Wandsworth	19,200	5,464
Westminster	17,400	5,353
Barking and Dagenham	19,000	5,611
Barnet	24,900	6,666
Bexley	11,900	1,865
Brent	18,700	4,783
Bromley	16,700	2,744
Croydon	17,100	3,617
Ealing	15,300	3,028
Enfield	22,400	4,267
Haringey	18,700	6,084
Harrow	11,000	3,508
Havering	14,900	2,955
Hillingdon	13,100	4,168
Hounslow	13,100	3,883
Kingston upon Thames	8,500	3,928
Merton	13,100	4,863
Newham	16,100	5,538
Redbridge	14,500	2,476
Richmond upon Thames	12,800	4,438
Sutton	10,900	2,581
Waltham Forest	10,600	4,000

UA = Unitary authority.
[1] Domiciliary care has been defined as services helping the client to live at home, including direct payments, home care, day care, equipment and adaptations, meals and other non residential services. It also includes expenditure funded from the "Supporting People" grant that councils have classified as social services expenditure rather than housing expenditure.
[2] The total number of clients receiving domiciliary care has been taken from provisional RAP data and the cost per person is therefore provisional.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much on average has been recouped in charges for *(a)* personal social services, *(b)* home care and *(c)* day care for each older person in each local authority in 2008-09. [261494]

Phil Hope: We are informed by the Information Centre for health and social care that it collects and publishes data on local authority expenditure recouped in sales, fees and charges for older people—aged 65 and over. Information for 2008-09 will not be available until later in 2009.

The following table shows the total amount recouped in sales fees and charges by each council with adult social services responsibility (CASSR) and the amount relating to home care and day care for older people in 2007-08. Information about charges paid by individual older people is not held centrally.

£000

CASSR	Sales, fees and charges[1]	Of which: Home care	Day care
Barnsley	11,080	1,520	65
Birmingham	33,491	5,388	3
Bolton	7,620	1,689	93
Bradford	21,215	2,468	388
Bury	7,196	1,005	98
Calderdale	9,118	861	133
Coventry	9,811	1,060	74
Doncaster	14,261	1,889	151
Dudley	9,558	2,052	0
Gateshead	8,533	1,600	14
Kirklees	16,830	2,951	152
Knowsley	6,114	253	79
Leeds	19,415	1,156	109
Liverpool	9,881	2,984	113
Manchester	13,263	1,730	320
Newcastle upon Tyne	10,067	1,945	106
North Tyneside	8,231	1,396	0
Oldham	6,756	0	0
Rochdale	8,173	1,045	43
Rotherham	11,553	1,357	98
Salford	10,034	1,579	291
Sandwell	10,953	1,185	247
Sefton	12,824	651	225
Sheffield	24,556	2,550	258
Solihull	5,797	1,190	144
South Tyneside	6,367	877	86
St. Helens	8,969	2,043	156
Stockport	9,170	0	51
Sunderland	12,841	2,262	237
Tameside	14,477	2,310	62
Trafford	5,981	945	104
Wakefield	10,776	2,240	86
Walsall	8,540	1,482	109
Wigan	9,986	1,496	271
Wirral	14,935	2,837	0
Wolverhampton	12,303	1,556	18
Bedfordshire	9,898	1,158	139
Buckinghamshire	13,740	2,210	514
Cambridgeshire	15,301	4,580	129
Cheshire	28,248	5,645	1,128
Cornwall	14,889	2,485	111
Cumbria	36,078	5,569	425
Derbyshire	25,919	0	99
Devon	36,423	3,504	948
Dorset	14,210	2,598	350
Durham	25,413	9,855	92
East Sussex	18,461	1,156	160
Essex	57,753	5,991	317
Gloucestershire	12,864	2,867	401
Hampshire	35,516	7,112	92
Hertfordshire	27,615	5,308	143
Isles of Scilly	184	32	0
Kent	45,427	7,600	163
Lancashire	39,515	8,804	27
Leicestershire	21,895	3,618	97
Lincolnshire	25,583	3,712	12
Norfolk	40,564	5,029	46
North Yorkshire	23,842	3,130	662
Northamptonshire	19,091	1,981	258
Northumberland	17,502	3,251	172
Nottinghamshire	30,807	5,006	130
Oxfordshire	10,495	3,444	168

£000

CASSR	Sales, fees and charges[1]	Of which: Home care	Day care
Shropshire	10,479	1,003	150
Somerset	20,579	3,910	217
Staffordshire	27,957	4,930	555
Suffolk	23,864	2,774	112
Surrey	24,941	1,993	88
Warwickshire	13,319	4,026	4
West Sussex	27,479	2,376	102
Wiltshire	10,858	876	134
Worcestershire	12,938	2,314	160
Bath and Somerset UA	5,529	363	1
Blackburn with Darwen UA	5,640	881	23
Blackpool UA	6,432	736	80
Bournemouth UA	6,704	1,333	446
Bracknell Forest UA	2,590	429	14
Brighton and Hove UA	11,385	1,410	334
Bristol UA	16,589	3,029	32
Darlington UA	5,130	499	0
Derby UA	8,320	1	55
East Riding of Yorkshire UA	16,614	1,805	165
Halton UA	4,015	421	16
Hartlepool UA	6,146	601	4
Herefordshire UA	4,747	254	63
Isle of Wight UA	6,743	954	126
Kingston upon Hull UA	11,229	1,137	68
Leicester UA	9,976	1,505	149
Luton UA	4,698	976	85
Medway Towns UA	7,113	1,767	79
Middlesbrough UA	4,775	585	85
Milton Keynes UA	5,712	1,078	97
North East Lincolnshire UA	6,659	1,050	51
North Lincolnshire UA	6,281	966	49
North Somerset UA	9,489	1,213	20
Nottingham UA	7,925	851	198
Peterborough UA	5,027	1,346	54
Plymouth UA	11,175	1,374	0
Poole UA	4,704	1,226	166
Portsmouth UA	6,438	1,433	37
Reading UA	3,144	770	21
Redcar and Cleveland UA	1,994	741	2
Rutland UA	1,411	228	42
Slough UA	2,792	519	77
South Gloucestershire UA	8,154	1,521	51
Southampton UA	5,986	952	2
Southend-on-Sea UA	8,373	1,158	32
Stockton-on-Tees UA	6,268	708	7
Stoke-on-Trent UA	10,314	1,790	97
Swindon UA	4,845	828	74
Telford and the Wrekin UA	3,898	582	24
Thurrock UA	5,651	835	9
Torbay UA	8,311	757	205
Warrington UA	9,095	1,505	18
West Berkshire UA	3,852	1,244	41

£000

CASSR	Sales, fees and charges†	Of which: Home care	Day care
Windsor and Maidenhead UA	3,433	689	44
Wokingham UA	3,029	707	0
York UA	7,056	1,073	105
Camden	5,401	492	105
City of London	230	0	0
Greenwich	5,389	0	0
Hackney	4,491	1,105	44
Hammersmith and Fulham	3,468	0	0
Islington	5,378	910	43
Kensington and Chelsea	3,393	654	83
Lambeth	6,190	709	24
Lewisham	7,279	1,480	29
Southwark	5,304	0	122
Tower Hamlets	3,632	0	42
Wandsworth	7,987	1,918	0
Westminster	5,947	1,266	7
Barking and Dagenham	4,210	271	0
Barnet	7,686	1,689	0
Bexley	8,778	1,721	86
Brent	8,106	1,361	137
Bromley	10,822	2,710	4
Croydon	7,657	2,047	202
Ealing	7,912	916	46
Enfield	10,814	1,909	154
Haringey	5,697	781	129
Harrow	5,477	2,026	51
Havering	7,685	1,398	3
Hillingdon	6,755	1,256	150
Hounslow	5,166	733	166
Kingston upon Thames	5,476	970	186
Merton	6,633	1,499	112
Newham	4,748	0	58
Redbridge	10,959	1,342	191
Richmond upon Thames	6,527	1,270	124
Sutton	6,018	1,448	190
Waltham Forest	6,085	767	197

UA = Unitary authority

† Sales, fees and charges includes income from housing benefits, rent from service users in group homes, charges for day care, home care and meals as well as contributions towards equipment and adaptations and the sale of meals for non-residents and charges for private phone calls.

Client contributions through sales, fees and charges includes income from housing benefits, rent from service users in group homes, charges for day care, home care and meals as well as contributions towards equipment and adaptations and the sale of meals for non-residents and charges for private phone calls.

The information provided on expenditure is derived from data collected annually on social services expenditure from CASSRs on the form PSS EX1. This collection has been the responsibility of the Information Centre since April 2005. Prior to this date, data were collected by the Department of Health.

Social Services: Expenditure

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of spending on personal care that was met by *(a)* local authorities, *(b)* the NHS and *(c)* individual service users or their families in 2008-09. [261482]

Phil Hope: We have made no estimate of the proportion of personal care spending that is met by local authorities, individuals, or the national health service.

Stafford Hospital

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will request that the Healthcare Commission expedite the publication of its report on Stafford Hospital. [261893]

Mr. Bradshaw: As an independent body, it is for the Healthcare Commission to determine when it publishes its reports.

Teenage Pregnancy

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the evidential basis was for the statement made in paragraph 5.28 of Healthy lives brighter futures: The strategy for children and young people's health that 'since the launch of our Teenage Pregnancy Strategy, we have reversed the previous upward trend in teenage pregnancy'; and if he will make a statement; [259043]

(2) if he will place in the Library copies of the guidance referred to in paragraph 5.29 of Healthy lives brighter futures: The strategy for children and young people's health; and if he will make a statement; [259044]

(3) whether consideration was given by his Department to including in Healthy lives brighter futures: The strategy for children and young people's health reference to *(a)* reducing the frequency of sexual intercourse, *(b)* delaying the age of first intercourse, *(c)* restricting intercourse to one long-term partner and *(d)* abstinence; and if he will make a statement; [259045]

(4) what the evidential basis is that the policies contained in Healthy lives brighter futures: The strategy for children and young people's health will reduce *(a)* the teenage pregnancy rate and *(b)* the abortion rate for young persons under 19 years of age; and if he will make a statement. [259046]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

Data published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) show that between 1994 and 1998, the under-18 conception rate 'increased' by 12.0 per cent. In contrast, between 1998 and 2007 (the latest year for which data are available) the rate has fallen by 10.7 per cent.

The guidance referred to in paragraph 5.29 of "Healthy lives brighter futures: The strategy for children and young people's health" is entitled "Teenage Pregnancy Next Steps: Guidance for Local Authorities and Primary Care Trusts on Effective Delivery of Local Strategies". A copy of this guidance—issued in 2006—has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

This guidance was based on international evidence, as well as in-depth reviews in local areas that were carried out by the Teenage Pregnancy Unit and the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit, which identified factors that were evident in areas where rates had fallen, but were either absent or being delivered less intensively in similar areas where rates were static or increasing.

The Teenage Pregnancy Strategy has always included action to support young people to resist pressure to engage in early sexual activity and to promote the benefits of delaying first sex, by giving them the knowledge and skills they need to make safe and healthy choices about sex and relationships. These messages are included

in both the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy media campaign and the guidance to schools on sex and relationships education (SRE).

In contrast, there is no evidence that education that promotes abstinence until marriage is effective. Recent evidence from the United States shows that young people who pledged to abstain from sex until they were married had sexual behaviour in the next five years similar to that of teenagers who had not taken an abstinence pledge ("Pediatrics" 2009, doi:10.1542/peds.2009-0407). Teenagers who had pledged abstinence, and a matched control group who had not taken a pledge, did not differ in rates of premarital sex.

Wheelchairs

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1177W, on wheelchairs, what categories and types of wheelchair are included under specialised wheelchair; and what percentage of wheelchair referrals are on a consultant-led pathway. [261763]

Phil Hope: Data on consultant-led referrals for wheelchairs are not collected centrally.

National health service wheelchair services are responsible for the assessment of each individuals' needs before supplying a suitable wheelchair. A list of all the categories and types of wheelchair that may be classed as specialised is not available as many will be tailored to individuals' or their carers' requirements.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Alcoholic Drinks: Death

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people in each age group in *(a)* the City of Southampton and *(b)* Test Valley borough died of alcohol-related illnesses in each of the last five years. [261479]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people in (a) the City of Southampton and (b) Test Valley borough died of alcohol-related illnesses in each age group in each of the last five years. (261479)

The tables attached provide the number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause in (a) Southampton unitary authority and (b) Test Valley local authority district, by age group, from 2003 to 2007 (the latest year available).

Table 1: Number of deaths with an alcohol-related underlying cause of death[1], Southampton unitary authority and Test Valley local authority district[2], by age group[3], 2003-07[4]

Deaths (persons)

Area	Age group	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Southampton	15-34	0	1	1	1	0
	35-54	17	11	17	17	10
	55-74	13	13	13	11	21
	75+	1	0	4	3	1
	Total	31	25	35	32	32
Test Valley	15-34	0	0	1	0	0
	35-54	1	3	3	3	2
	55-74	7	8	9	3	2
	75+	2	1	3	1	1
	Total	10	12	16	7	5

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). The specific causes of death categorised as alcohol-related, and their corresponding ICD-10 codes, are shown in the box below.
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2009.
[3] There were no deaths in age group 1-14 years.
[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Box 1: Alcohol-related causes of death—International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

Cause of death	ICD-10 code(s)
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol	F10
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol	G31.2
Alcoholic polyneuropathy	G62.1
Alcoholic cardiomyopathy	I42.6
Alcoholic gastritis	K29.2
Alcoholic liver disease	K70
Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified	K73
Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver (excl. Biliary cirrhosis)	K74 (excl. K74.3-K74.5)
Alcohol induced chronic pancreatitis	K86.0
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X45
Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol	X65
Poisoning by and exposure to alcohol, undetermined intent	Y15

Death: Weather

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many excess winter deaths occurred in *(a)* Sutton and Cheam, *(b)* Carshalton and Wallington and *(c)* Greater London in each of the last 10 years. [260817]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many excess winter deaths occurred in *(a)* Sutton and Cheam, *(b)* Carshalton and Wallington and *(c)* Greater London in each of the last 10 years.

Estimates of excess winter deaths are based on the difference between the number of deaths during the four winter months (December to March) and the average number of deaths during the preceding four months (August to November) and the following four months (April to July). The following table provides the number of excess winter deaths that occurred in *(a)* Sutton and Cheam parliamentary constituency, *(b)* Carshalton and Wallington parliamentary constituency and *(c)* London Government Office region for the years 1997-98 to 2006-07 (the latest figures available).

Excess winter deaths,[1,2] Sutton and Cheam parliamentary constituency, Carshalton and Wallington parliamentary constituency and London government office region,[3] 1997-98 to 2006-07[4]

	Parliamentary constituency		*Government office region*
	Sutton and Cheam	*Carshalton and Wallington*	*London*
1997-1998	40	40	2,520
1998-1999	70	80	4,940
1999-2000	90	60	5,870
2000-2001	40	70	2,780
2001-2002	60	30	2,750
2002-2003	—	30	2,810
2003-2004	10	50	2,040
2004-2005	60	60	3,440
2005-2006	50	80	2,560
2006-2007	50	10	2,100

[1] The estimated number of excess winter deaths is the difference between the number of deaths during the four winter months (December to March) and the average number of deaths during the preceding four months (August to November) and the following four months (April to July). Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
[2] A hyphen (—) denotes there were no excess winter deaths during the period specified.
[3] Based on boundaries as of 2008.
[4] Figures are based on deaths occurring in each month.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much has been claimed in reimbursable expenses by special advisers (1) in the Prime Minister's Office in 2008-09 at the latest date for which figures are available; [260319]

(2) in the Cabinet Office in 2008-09 to date. [260320]

Kevin Brennan: Costs incurred on reimbursable expenses in 2008-09, will be available only when the Department's resource accounts are fully audited and laid before Parliament. This is expected to be before the 2009 summer recess.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what his Department's entertainment budget was in each of the last five years. [261111]

Kevin Brennan: The Department's budget for entertainment is included in the Department's hospitality budget and is not separately identifiable. Therefore the information requested is not available.

Any expenditure on entertainment is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in "Managing Public Money" and other Treasury guidance.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the Prime Minister's Office entertainment budget was in each of the last five years. [261116]

Kevin Brennan: Details of the cost of entertainment and hospitality in Downing Street and Chequers are published annually. For information for 2007-08 I refer the hon. Member to the written statement given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister 22 July 2008 *Official Report*, columns 108-10WS. For information for 2006-07 I refer the hon. Member to the answer he gave my hon. Friend the Member for Cleethorpes (Shona McIsaac) on 25 July 2007 *Official Report*, column 1108W. For information for 2005-06 I refer the hon. Member to the answers given by the then Prime Minister (right hon. Tony Blair) on 11 October 2006 *Official Report*, column 794W. For information for 2004-05 and 2003-04 I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my noble Friend the Lord Bassam of Brighton on 21 July 2005 *Official Report*, column WA261.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much his Department spent on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* food in each of the last five years. [261163]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested is not held centrally and therefore is available only at disproportionate cost.

All Cabinet Office expenditure on alcohol is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in "Managing Public Money" and the Treasury handbook on "Regularity and Propriety".

Departmental Press

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much his Department spent on newspapers, magazines and periodicals in each year since 1997. [261203]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested is not held centrally and therefore is available only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what payments for *(a)* polling and

(b) other services the Cabinet Office made to (i) Deborah Mattinson and (ii) Opinion Leader Research Limited since 31 December 2007; and if he will make a statement. [261064]

Kevin Brennan: The Cabinet Office has not made any payments to Deborah Mattinson since 31 December 2007.

Since the same date, the Cabinet Office has made one payment of £22,869.03 to Opinion Leader Research Limited for undertaking qualitative research with young people and parents in deprived communities.

Departmental Rail Travel

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what the cost was of travel by train by staff in his Department in each year since 1997; [261202]

(2) what the cost was of travel by train by staff in the Prime Minister's Office in each year since 1997. [261271]

Kevin Brennan: The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office and therefore the answer provided is for the whole of the Cabinet Office including the Prime Minister and his office.

The information requested is not held centrally and therefore is available only at disproportionate cost.

The Cabinet Office is committed to minimising travel costs and reducing our carbon footprint and has an official travel policy that supports this. As part of the Cabinet Office's drive towards improving efficiency and reducing costs, an online booking service for UK rail tickets has been introduced in the department.

Education: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people *(a)* were in full-time education and *(b)* retired from employment in (i) Hemel Hempstead and (ii) Hertfordshire in each year since 1997. [260775]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your parliamentary question asking how many people were in *(a)* full-time education and *(b)* retired from employment in (i) Hemel Hempstead and (ii) Hertfordshire, in each year since 1997.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles employment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. Estimates are provided for the number of working age people (Female 16-59, Male 16-64) who stated they are full-time students. A full time student is defined as being at school, following a sandwich course or full time at university or college. Estimates are also provided for the number of people retired from employment, defined as those who are economically inactive and report their main reason for inactivity as being retired.

Table 1 shows the number of working age persons in full-time education resident in Hertfordshire in each year since 1997. The estimates from 1997 to 2004 are for the 12 month period ending February each year and taken from the annual LFS. Estimates for 2005 to 2008 are for the 12 month period ending March each year and taken from the APS. Estimates for July 2007 to June 2008 have also been provided, the most recent period for which estimates are available. Estimates are not shown for the Hemel Hempstead parliamentary constituency as they are based on small samples and are considered too unreliable.

Table 2 shows the number of people who are retired from employment resident in Hertfordshire and the Hemel Hempstead parliamentary constituency in each year since 1998. Estimates are provided for the 12 months ending in February from 1998, the earliest period for which estimates are available, to 2004, from annual LFS, and for the 12 months ending in March from 2005 to 2008, from APS. Estimates for July 2007 to June 2008 have also been provided, the most recent for which figures are available.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty. A guide to the quality of the estimates is given in Table 1 and Table 2.

Table 1: Number of persons working age[1] in full-time education[2] in (a) Hertfordshire and (b) Hemel Hempstead in each year since 1997.

Thousand

12 months ending	*Hertfordshire*	*Hemel Hempstead*
February 1998	42	—
February 1999	48	—
February 2000	50	—
February 2001	43	—
February 2002	43	—
February 2003	44	—
February 2004	43	—
March 2005	42	—
March 2006	42	—
March 2007	47	—
March 2008	48	—
June 2008[3]	**48	****

'—' = Figures are disclosive or statistically unreliable.

[1] Working age (Females 16 to 59, Males 16 to 64)

[2] Coverage applies to all respondents, of working age, who stated they are full-time students. A full time student is defined as being at school, following a sandwich course or full time at university or college.

[3] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality below.

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV - for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5% we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220

Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (% Statistical Robustness

* 0 ≤ CV 5 Estimates are considered precise

** 5 ≤ CV 10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise

*** 10 ≤ CV 20 Estimates are considered acceptable

**** CV ≥ 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

Source:

Annual Labour Force Survey and Annual Population Survey

Table 2: Number of people who are retired[1] from employment in (a) Hertfordshire and (b) Hemel Hempstead in each year since 1997

Thousand

12 months ending	*Hertfordshire*	*Hemel Hempstead*
February 1998	—	—
February 1999	144	10
February 2000	146	10
February 2001	150	13
February 2002	160	14
February 2003	169	14
February 2004	169	14
March 2005	156	14
March 2006	162	15
March 2007	161	13
March 2008	155	17

Table 2: Number of people who are retired[1] from employment in (a) Hertfordshire and (b) Hemel Hempstead in each year since 1997

Thousand

12 months ending	*Hertfordshire*	*Hemel Hempstead*
June 2008[2]	**153	***18

'...' = Data are not available for the period March 1997 to February 1998

[1] The number of people retired from employment is defined as those who are economically inactive and report their main reason for inactivity as being retired.

[2] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality below.

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV - for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5% we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220

Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (% Statistical Robustness

* 0 ≤ CV 5 Estimates are considered precise

** 5 ≤ CV 10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise

*** 10 ≤ CV 20 Estimates are considered acceptable

**** CV ≥ 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

Source:

Annual Labour Force Survey and Annual Population Survey

Electoral Register

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what percentage of individuals on the electoral register are listed anonymously. [260601][1]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 4 March 2009]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question asking what percentage of individuals on the electoral register are listed anonymously. (260601).

Just over one in one thousand individuals registered to vote in the local/European elections are listed anonymously in England and Wales, for 2008. Just under one in one thousand are listed in Scotland, for 2008. The legislation for anonymous registration is not yet enacted in Northern Ireland.

Employment

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* non-UK born UK nationals and *(b)* non-UK born non-UK nationals his Department estimates there are in the working population of Britain; and what proportion of the total working population each category represents. [262051]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many (a) non-UK born UK nationals and (b) non-UK born non-UK nationals it is estimated there are in the working population of Britain; and what proportion of that working population each category represents. [262051]

The requested information is shown in the attached table.

The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. This is assessed in a footnote to the table.

The figures in the table are derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. Consequently they are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release, or the non-UK born employment figures published every quarter, which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates. However, in this case the difference is very small. The figures in the table add up to 3,820 thousand non-UK born people in employment, compared with a figure of 3,819 thousand published on 11 February.

Non-UK born people aged 16 and over in employment by nationality, three month period ending December 2008, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousands and per cent

	Number[1]	*As a percentage of all people in employment*
UK nationals	*1,466	5
Non-UK nationals	*2,354	8

[1] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described below:

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV - for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key Coefficient Statistical robustness

* 0 ≤ CV <5 Estimates are considered precise.

** 5 ≤ CV <10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise.

*** 10 ≤ CV < 20 Estimates are considered acceptable.

**** CV ≥ 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes.

Note:

It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc).

Source:

Labour Force Survey

Food Poisoning

Norman Lamb: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many deaths were caused by food poisoning by *(a)* salmonella, *(b)* campylobacter, *(c)* E. coli and *(d)* other food-borne pathogens in each of the last five years. [261500]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths were caused by food poisoning by (a) salmonella, (b)campylobacter, (c) E. coli and (d) other food borne pathogens in each of the last five years. (261500)

The table attached provides the number of deaths with an underlying cause of (a) salmonella infection, (b) Campylobacter infection, (c) Escherichia coli infection and (d) other food poisoning causes, from 2003 to 2007 (the latest year available). No information is available on whether the infection that caused these deaths was specifically acquired through food, water or any other source.

Table 1: Number of deaths with an underlying cause of salmonella, campylobacter and Escherichia coli infections, and other food poisoning causes, England and Wales, 2003-07[1,2,3]

Deaths (persons)

Cause	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Salmonella	18	14	16	13	16
Campylobacter	3	3	4	4	1

1. *[Official Report, 21 April 2009, Vol. 491, c. 3-4MC.]*

Table 1: Number of deaths with an underlying cause of salmonella, campylobacter and Escherichia coli infections, and other food poisoning causes, England and Wales, 2003-07[1,2,3]

				Deaths (persons)	
Cause	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Escherichia Coli	1	2	2	2	3
Other food poisoning	37	29	25	39	45
Total	59	48	47	58	65

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). The specific causes of death, and their corresponding ICD-10 codes, are shown in the box below. [2] Figures include deaths of non-residents. [3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Box 1: Causes of death related to food poisoning—International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

ICD-10 code(s)	*Cause of death*
A02	Other salmonella infections (excluding typhoid and paratyphoid fevers)
A04.5	Campylobacter enteritis
A04.0	Enteropathogenic Escherichia coli infection
A04.1	Enterotoxigenic Escherichia coli infection
A04.2	Enteroinvasive Escherichia coli infection
A04.3	Enterohaemorrhagic Escherichia coli infection
A04.4	Other intestinal Escherichia coli infection
A00-A01	Cholera, typhoid and paratyphoid fevers
A05	Other bacterial food-borne intoxications
A07	Other protozoal intestinal diseases
A32	Listeriosis
B66.1	Clonorchiasis
B66.3	Fascioliasis
B66.4	Paragonimiasis
B68-B70	Taeniasis, cysticercosis, diphyllobothriasis and sparganosis
B75	Trichinellosis
B81.0	Anisakiasis
T62	Toxic effect of other noxious substances eaten as food
T64	Toxic effect of aflatoxin and other mycotoxin food contaminants
X49	Accidental poisoning by and exposure to other and unspecified chemicals and noxious substances

Gastrointestinal Cancer

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many residents of *(a)* Ribble Valley, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* England were diagnosed with bowel cancer in each of the last 10 years. [261571]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many residents of (a) Ribble Valley, (b) Lancashire and (c) England were diagnosed with bowel cancer in each of the last 10 years. [261571]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2006. Numbers of newly diagnosed cases of bowel cancer in each calendar year since 1997 for residents of (a) Ribble Valley, (b) Lancashire and (c) England are in Table 1.

Table 1. Number of newly diagnosed cases of bowel cancer[1]*, persons, Ribble Valley local authority, county of Lancashire, England, 1997 to 2006*

Area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Ribble Valley	38	31	33	43	31	46	35	42	33	29
Lancashire	644	696	696	729	721	693	672	697	688	708
England	28,112	28,750	29,058	28,951	28,216	28,218	28,496	29,430	29,945	30,046

[1] Bowel cancer is defined as codes C18-C20 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).

Source:
Office for National Statistics

Job Vacancies

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* skilled and *(b)* unskilled job vacancies there were in (i) the UK, (ii) England, (iii) the North East and (iv) Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency at the latest date for which information is available. [260786]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many *(a)* skilled and *(b)* unskilled job vacancies there were in (i) the UK, (ii) England, (iii) the North East and (iv) Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency for the latest date for which information is available. (260786)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles estimates of job vacancies for the UK from the Vacancy Survey. No figures for geographic areas below UK are available from this survey. An alternative source of vacancies statistics is Jobcentre Plus administrative data, which does hold information on geographic location of vacancies notified to Jobcentre Plus. However, neither of these sources have information on vacancies split between skilled and unskilled jobs.

Pension Schemes: Private Sector

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many and what proportion of full-time *(a)* private sector employees and *(b)* public sector employees are members of a final salary pension scheme. [258596]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many and what proportion of full-time *(a)* private sector employees and *(b)* public sector employees are members of a final salary pension scheme. (258596)

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), earned out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. It provides information about the levels, distribution and make-up of earnings and hours paid for employees within industries, occupations and regions. ASHE also provides estimates of UK employees by type of pension arrangements within the company. It is not designed to give estimates of the numbers of employees in a particular pension category so only proportions are provided below.

In 2008, 86 per cent. of public sector full-time employees and 16 per cent. of private sector full-time employees were in a defined-benefit pension scheme. Final salary pension schemes are categorised as defined benefit pension schemes. Defined benefit schemes are determined by the rules of the scheme and may be related to final salary, but may also be related to the average salary over a number of years.

Population: Age

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what percentage of the population in *(a)* Eastbourne, *(b)* East Sussex and *(c)* England are (i) over 45, (ii) over 70 and (iii) over 80 years old. [257206]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question on what percentage of the population in *(a)* Eastbourne, *(b)* East Sussex and *(c)* England are (i) over 45, (ii) over 70 and (iii) over 80 years old.

The following table shows the percentage of the estimated resident population who are over 45, 70 and 80 years of age in England, East Sussex and Eastbourne. The estimates are for mid-2007 and are the latest available.

Mid-2007 Population Estimates

			Percentage
	Over 45	*Over 70*	*Over 80*
England	39	11	4
East Sussex	49	16	7
Eastbourne	46	17	7

Source:
Office for National Statistics.

Pregnant Women: Death

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many women aged *(a)* 14 to 16, *(b)* 17 to 21, *(c)* 22 to 24, *(d)* 25 to 30, *(e)* 31 to 35 and *(f)* 36 to 40 years old died from pregnancy-related diseases in each year since 1979. [261392]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many women aged *(a)* 14 to 16, *(b)* 17 to 21, *(c)* 22 to 24, *(d)* 25 to 30, *(e)* 31 to 35 and *(f)* 36 to 40 years old died from pregnancy-related diseases in each year since 1979. (261392)

The table attached provides the number of deaths with an underlying cause related to pregnancy or childbirth for women aged *(a)* 14 to 16, *(b)* 17 to 21, *(c)* 22 to 24, *(d)* 25 to 30, *(e)* 31 to 35 and *(f)* 36 to 40 years old, in England and Wales, from 1979 to 2007 (the latest year available).

Table 1: Number of deaths with an underlying cause of death related to pregnancy or childbirth, by age group, England and Wales, 1979 – 2007[1,2,3]

	Deaths (females)					
	14-16	*17-21*	*22-24*	*25-30*	*31-35*	*36-40*
1979	1	7	9	28	18	9
1980	0	10	6	21	19	8
1981	2	9	9	15	16	3
1982	1	4	3	11	12	10
1983	0	8	9	21	8	8
1984	0	3	13	16	8	9
1985	0	6	8	10	14	5
1986	0	6	8	14	7	6
1987	0	6	7	16	9	8
1988	0	1	3	14	12	7
1989	1	6	5	21	10	8
1990	1	10	6	18	17	4
1991	0	3	4	17	12	8
1992	0	2	6	12	18	5
1993	0	1	4	16	7	3
1994	1	2	3	16	16	11
1995	1	4	5	12	15	7
1996	0	3	8	14	12	8
1997	3	4	6	6	12	7
1998	0	6	4	14	12	5
1999	0	0	2	9	13	5
2000	0	1	2	13	10	9
2001	3	4	1	9	22	6
2002	0	3	3	14	10	5
2003	0	1	3	16	16	6
2004	0	1	5	8	17	15
2005	0	4	3	12	14	10
2006	0	7	3	10	11	7
2007	0	5	3	8	12	13

[1] Deaths with an underlying cause related to pregnancy, childbirth or the puerperium were defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 630-676 for the years 1979 to 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes 000-099 for the years 2001 to 2007.
[2] Figures include deaths of non-residents.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Public Opinion

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much his Department and its agencies spent on *(a)* opinion polling, *(b)* focus groups and *(c)* other forms of market research in each year since 1997; what surveys were commissioned; and what the purpose was of each. [261204]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested is not held centrally and therefore is available only at disproportionate cost.

Teenage Pregnancy

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many girls aged 16 years and under of each age *(a)* became pregnant, *(b)* had an abortion, *(c)* gave birth and gave the child up for adoption and *(d)* gave birth and kept the child in each region in the last year for which figures are available. [261394]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many girls aged 16 years and under of

each age (a) became pregnant, (b) had an abortion, (c) gave birth and gave the child up for adoption and (d) gave birth and kept the child in each region in the last year for which figures are available. (261394)

Available figures are estimates of the number of conceptions that resulted in a live birth and/or stillbirth (a maternity) or a legal termination.

To preserve confidentiality of individuals, figures for girls aged under 15 are not available for each age. The numbers of girls that (a) became pregnant and (b) had an abortion in each Government Office Region in 2007 (the most recent year for which figures are available), are shown in the attached table. Figures for 2007 are provisional.

Information on girls that (c) gave birth and gave the child up for adoption and (d) gave birth and kept the child are not available. The attached table includes, instead, the total number of maternities to girls aged under 16.

Number of conceptions to girls aged under 15, 15 and 16 by Government Office Region (GOR), 2007

GOR	Total number of conceptions	Number leading to an abortion	Number leading to a maternity
Age under 15			
England and Wales	2,278	1,481	797
North East	163	105	58
North West	321	210	111
Yorkshire and the Humber	276	174	102
East Midlands	181	117	64
West Midlands	236	153	83
East	184	125	59
London	327	223	104
South East	277	191	86
South West	189	115	74
Wales	124	68	56
Age 15			
England and Wales	5,918	3,552	2,366
North East	368	201	167
North West	877	526	351
Yorkshire and the Humber	692	400	292
East Midlands	473	260	213
West Midlands	727	435	292
East	466	275	191
London	745	522	223
South East	747	467	280
South West	466	279	187
Wales	357	187	170
Age 16			
England and Wales	13,554	6,858	6,696
North East	814	341	473
North West	2,043	1,027	1,016
Yorkshire and the Humber	1,509	694	815
East Midlands	1,101	512	589
West Midlands	1,609	770	839
East	1,164	602	562
London	1,803	1,158	645
South East	1,607	843	764
South West	1,126	578	548
Wales	778	333	445

Note:
Figures for 2007 are provisional

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost is of the upgrade of the MAN support trucks used for operations in Afghanistan; and where the principal place of manufacture is for his Department's order of MAN support trucks. [261026]

Mr. Quentin Davies: To date, the cost of the upgrade for the support vehicles to theatre entry standard for operational use in Afghanistan is £18 million (excluding VAT).

The vehicle chassis and running gear are manufactured in Austria and the final vehicle integration, a significant part of the contract equating to approx 50 per cent. of the manufacturing process, is undertaken in the UK.

Armed Forces: Absence Without Leave

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what reasons are most frequently identified as causing service personnel to be absent without leave; and if he will make a statement. [259492]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Information on reasons identified as causing service personnel to be absent without leave is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel who were absent without leave at some point in each of the last 10 years were subsequently dismissed from each of the armed services. [259502]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following personnel, who have been absent without leave at some point in the last 10 years, have subsequently been dismissed. The fact that they had been absent without leave was not necessarily the reason for their dismissal.

	Number dismissed from service		
	Royal Navy	*Army*	*Royal Air Force*
1999	5	54	0
2000	5	38	0
2001	10	53	—
2002	5	64	—
2003	14	50	0
2004	7	70	0
2005	—	64	0
2006	0	46	0
2007	9	26	0
2008	6	17	0

'—' Denotes less than 5

Notes:

1. Data are captured using different methods for each of the three services and the figures are not directly comparable on a tri-service basis.
2. The Royal Navy (RN) figures for this answer were drawn from the centrally held RN Discipline Database and unlike previous returns this table includes charges of AWOL for periods of absence of less than 24 hours.
3. The RN figures include Royal Marines subject to the Naval Discipline Act at the time of the offence.
4. The RN figures do not include personnel who were convicted of AWOL and later dismissed at a hearing with AWOL not recorded as an offence being dealt with at that final trial.
5. The Army figures include only those who were dismissed solely on the basis of AWOL (i.e. there were no other offences) but may include one or more counts of AWOL. They do not include instances where AWOL may have been recorded as subordinate to a more serious offence.
6. The RAF figures are for those personnel reported as AWOL and later dismissed for any reason (i.e. not necessarily as a direct result of being AWOL).

Armed Forces: Training

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether final approval has been withheld for the second risk reduction activity for the Defence Training Review; [262016]

(2) what activities are planned to be undertaken within the budget of the second package of risk reduction activity for the Defence Training Review; [262017]

(3) what steps the Secretary of State is taking in response to the parliamentary objection to the departmental minute dated 17 February 2009 concerning a contingent liability for the costs associated with the defence training review. [262068]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Final approval has not been withheld, however, this underwriting activity will not go live until the objections have been considered and answered in accordance with established procedure. I refer the hon. Member to my answer on 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1364-65W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Thurrock (Andrew Mackinlay). This answer was in response to his Point of Order raised on 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 169, and also his Early Day Motion 872. I am writing to the hon. Member for The Wrekin (Mark Pritchard) to address his Point of Order, also on 24 February and will place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

The planned activities, to further develop the training solution and advance the new facility design and planning process, will ensure the most effective programme is let at contract signature. They will:

- Enable essential building design work which is a precondition of a successful planning application.
- Ensure the design work improves our understanding of the quality and standard of the new sustainable estate.
- Improve confidence over costs through minimising the risk of cost growth and managing other risks.
- Seek to reduce the training estate footprint and ensure the most efficient match of facilities to the training solution and assets.
- Commence essential environmental survey work to support the planning application and maintain MOD's role as a good estate steward.
- Mitigate against further programme delay and maintain key construction and new service start dates.
- Reduce risk through increased exposure of Metrix to current MOD training practice and processes.
- Identify further opportunities for training rationalisation and harmonisation.
- Develop the plans for flexible and distance learning and the introduction of improved individual leaning techniques.
- Enable quicker and more efficient reduction in military manpower, releasing personnel to the Front Line Commands following contract signature.
- Develop the proposals to reduce residential student numbers and increase student 'Pass on Time' rates.

These activities will ensure that project momentum is maintained and planning application timescales achieved. They also aim to make sure costs are controlled to achieve an affordable, acceptable and deliverable project and to obtain maximum value for money for the taxpayer.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the time taken for a fully kitted-out soldier to exit the Panther Command and Liaison Vehicle. [261027]

Mr. Quentin Davies: During trials the approximate times taken for a soldier wearing full Osprey body armour to exit a Panther command and liaison vehicle or a Panther theatre entry standard vehicle were as follows:

Exit through any door: five seconds.

Exit through any hatch: two minutes.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Panther Command and Liaison vehicle will be fitted with a rear exit. [261028]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Panther command and liaison vehicle has two rear doors and one rear hatch. The Panther theatre entry standard vehicle for operations in Afghanistan has two rear doors and two rear hatches.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much weight has been added to the Panther Command and Liaison vehicle since the original specification. [261029]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1528W.

Courts Martial

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the rules are governing attendance at court martial proceedings for *(a)* relatives of the accused, *(b)* victims or relatives of victims, *(c)* properly interested parties, *(d)* legal representatives of interested parties, *(e)* representatives of Ministry of Defence, *(f)* members of the press and *(g)* members of the public. [261246]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The rules governing the attendance at courts martial proceedings are the same as those for Crown court proceedings. Courts martial are open proceedings and can be attended by all those identified in the question.

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what mechanisms are in place *(a)* for listing court martial proceedings and *(b)* to make court martial listings available to (i) interested parties, (ii) the press and (iii) online search engines. [261247]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Listing of courts martial proceedings is undertaken by the Military Court Service as directed by the Judge Advocate-General or a Judge Advocate. Public notices, giving details of proceedings, are posted at the relevant Military Court Centre and at the defendant's unit.

In addition, consideration is being given to publishing appropriate listing information on the internet on a new Military Court Service website.

European External Action Service

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* defence attachés and *(b)* military representatives will be appointed to the European External Action Service from (i) the UK and (ii) other EU member states. [261357]

Mr. Hutton: There have not yet been any detailed discussions on the organisation and functioning of the proposed European External Action Service (EEAS). The decision to launch the EEAS would not be taken until after the Lisbon Treaty enters into force, but its possible creation would have no impact on the ability of national Defence Attaches and Military Representatives to perform their bilateral responsibilities.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many individuals UK forces have detained in Iraq outside Multi-National Division South East during Operation TELIC. [260502]

Mr. Hutton *[holding answer 3 March 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the statement I made on 26 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 394, where I made it clear that individuals captured outside Multi-National Division South East will not feature in data released by the Ministry of Defence.

Property Tax (Ascension) Ordinance

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what mechanisms his Department has in place to ensure compliance with the Property Tax (Ascension) Ordinance of 2002. [261339]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence is currently in discussion with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on the amount of property tax MOD should pay to the Ascension Island Government.

RAF Menwith Hill

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many hon. Members have visited RAF Menwith Hill in each of the last 10 years. [260240]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: All requests by MPs to visit RAF Menwith Hill are referred to the office of the Secretary of State for Defence. Due to national security considerations, such visits are normally restricted to those with an official oversight function such as Government Ministers and members of the all-party Intelligence and Security Committee.

Since 1999 visits to RAF Menwith Hill by Government Ministers and members of the all-party Intelligence and Security Committee were:

	Visitors
2000	Minister for the Armed Forces
2000	Intelligence and Security Committee
2001	Secretary of State for Defence
2004	Intelligence and Security Committee
2006	Minister for the Armed Forces
2006	Intelligence and Security Committee
2007	Minister for the Armed Forces

The Shadow Spokesman for Defence also visited RAF Menwith Hill in 2001.

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* US service personnel, *(b)* US contractors, *(c)* US civilians, *(d)* Royal Air Force personnel, *(e)* Ministry of Defence Policy agency personnel, *(f)* Ministry of Defence Guarding Service personnel, *(g)* UK army personnel, *(h)* UK naval personnel, *(i)* GCHQ personnel, *(j)* UK contractors, *(k)* UK civilians, *(l)* US military chaplains and *(m)* UK military chaplains are working at Menwith Hill. [260261]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As at 3 March 2009 the following personnel were employed at RAF Menwith Hill:

Employer	*Number*
US Service Personnel	540
US Civilians and Contractors	892
RAF Personnel	4
UK Army Personnel	0
UK Naval Personnel	8
UK Contractors	[1]76
UK Civilians (Excl MDPGA)	325
US Military Chaplains	2
UK Military Chaplains	0

[1] The number of UK contractors' personnel working at RAF Menwith Hill may vary on a day to day basis.

I am withholding the number of GCHQ employees in accordance with government practice not to reveal numbers of personnel working in intelligence at specific locations. I am also withholding the numbers for both the Ministry of Defence Police and the Ministry of Defence Guard Agency for the purpose of the proper enforcement of law, and in the interests of national defence.

Sodexo

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will investigate his Department's contracts with Sodexo in light of reports about its human rights record. [260628]

Mr. Quentin Davies: We do not intend to investigate Sodexo's contracts with the Ministry of Defence.

The Ministry of Defence expects all of its suppliers to comply with all relevant UK law and to maintain the highest levels of honesty and integrity. MOD suppliers have a legal duty to comply with the Human Rights Act (HRA) 1988 when they are exercising public functions in the UK.

Somalia: Piracy

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date the European Union's Council of Ministers agreed Operation Atalanta; and on what date the UK Parliamentary Security Group granted its authority. [261032]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Council of Ministers agreed in a Joint Action at the General Affairs and External Relations Council on 10 November 2008 to establish operation Atalanta and that it should be launched in December 2008. A draft of the Joint Action was cleared in advance by the European Scrutiny Committee on 22 October 2008. The final version of the Joint Action was submitted to the European Scrutiny Committee by the Foreign Office on 10 November 2008.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence to whom the European Union's Operation Atalanta Commander Rear Admiral Philip Jones is accountable; and if he will make a statement. [261033]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In his role as EU Operation Commander for operation Atalanta, Rear Admiral Philip Jones is accountable to the Political and Security Committee, a council body in which ambassadors from each of the EU member states exercise political control and strategic direction over the operation, on instructions from national authorities.

The Political and Security Committee reports regularly on the progress of the operation to the Council of Ministers, which comprises national Ministers from each of the EU member states.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence under whose direct authority ships deployed in EU operations fall once unanimous agreement is established in the EU Council of Ministers. [261034]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Ships made available voluntarily by countries to participate in EU-led military operations come under the command of the relevant Operation Commander. An Operation Commander is appointed for each EU-led military operation by the Council of Ministers of the European Union. Ships participating in Operation Atalanta, for example, come under the command of the Operation Commander Rear Admiral Philip Jones RN based in his operation headquarters at Northwood.

The Operation Commander for each EU-led military operation reports to the Political and Security Committee, a council body in which ambassadors from each of the EU member states exercise political control and strategic direction over EU-led military operations, on instructions from national authorities.

The Political and Security Committee reports regularly on the progress of each EU-led military operation to the Council of Ministers.

Trident Submarines

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect of his Department's plans to build a successor to the Vanguard class submarine on the number of civilians employed at the Naval Reactor Test Establishment, Dounreay. [260951]

Mr. Hutton: The Department has not yet made any final decisions on the future role of the Naval Reactor Test Establishment (NRTE) Vulcan in delivering the successor to the Vanguard class submarine. It is therefore too soon to assess the effect on the number of Rolls-Royce employees who work there.

Trident: Scotland

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 848W, on Trident: Scotland, (1) how many of the 589 civilians at HM Naval Base Clyde whose jobs directly rely upon the Trident programme are employed in *(a)* engineering and science, *(b)* logistics, (c) security, *(d)* health and safety, *(e)* outfitting and steel work and *(f)* other areas; [260953]

(2) how many of the 589 civilians at HM Naval Base Clyde whose jobs directly rely upon the Trident programme are resident in *(a)* Argyll and Bute constituency, *(b)* West Dunbartonshire constituency, *(c)* elsewhere in Scotland and *(d)* outside Scotland; [260954]

(3) what the *(a)* skills requirements and *(b)* geographic distribution of the 250 indirect civilian jobs relating to support activities for the Trident programme in Scotland are. [260955]

Mr. Hutton: The information requested is not held by my Department in that format.

Action is ongoing, however, to update the December 2006 figures as part of a broader package of work. I will write to my hon. Friend when this work is complete.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Schools Commissioner

12. **Mr. Sheerman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he plans to appoint the new Schools Commissioner. [261301]

Ed Balls: The first Schools Commissioner, Sir Bruce Liddington, did an excellent job supporting the commissioning of new school places, expanding our academies programme and developing National Challenge Trusts. We have decided to wait until the post of director general for schools directorate is filled permanently before taking any decisions on how to continue this work and build on this track record of success.

School Assemblies

14. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department issues to schools on the holding of daily assemblies. [261303]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: All community, foundation or voluntary schools must offer a daily act of collective worship which is broadly of a Christian character in keeping with the religious traditions of this country. This should be appropriate to the age and family background of the pupils. Our policy and guidance on collective worship is set out in the Department's circular 1/94.

22. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his Department's policy is on the holding of multi-faith assemblies in schools. [261311]

Jim Knight: All community, foundation or voluntary schools must offer a daily act of collective worship which is broadly of a Christian character in keeping with the religious traditions of this country. This should be appropriate to the age and family background of the pupils. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from collective worship and pupils in the sixth form have the right to withdraw themselves from collective worship without parental consent.

Educational Qualifications

15. **Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government are taking to monitor the effectiveness of qualifications for pupils aged 16 to 19 in measuring their educational attainment. [261304]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The responsibility for ensuring qualifications standards falls to Ofqual, the new independent regulator of qualifications and tests. Ofqual ensures qualification standards are maintained. Ofsted inspections check for high quality delivery. The learning and skills council has developed robust systems for ensuring high quality further education provision.

All this helps to ensure high quality learning routes for all that have led to level 2 attainment increasing by 7 per cent. and level 3 attainment by 6 per cent. since 2004.

Building Schools for the Future: Lancashire

16. **Mr. Gordon Prentice:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the Building Schools for the Future programme in Lancashire is on schedule; and if he will make a statement. [261305]

Jim Knight: Lancashire is a wave 1 authority with 10 schools that are to be delivered in three phases across Burnley and Pendle.

The first four schools were opened as planned in September 2008; three more are currently on site, and the final business case for the remaining three is due to be submitted this month.

All schools are scheduled for completion before September 2010 and are therefore on programme. The remaining schools in Lancashire are in later waves of the programme.

Whiteboards

17. **Richard Ottaway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to improve the safety of whiteboards in use in schools. [261306]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Following changes to Health and Safety Executive guidance on the positioning of projectors used with interactive whiteboards, our lead agency for technology in education wrote to all directors of children's services on 26 November 2008.

A publicly accessible specification for the installation of AV equipment is being developed via the British Standards Institute which includes the requirement to place permanent warning signs next to whiteboards. This specification is expected to be live for public use in April 2009.

Musical Instrument Lessons: Take-up

18. **Jeff Ennis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress is being made in assisting more school students to learn to play a musical instrument. [261307]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: We have invested £332 million to 2011 in making a reality of our pledge that all primary children will have an opportunity to learn a musical instrument. So far music services report that over 50 per cent. of KS2 children are benefiting from these wider opportunities to access instruments and vocal provision, and their projection is that the figure will rise to 80 per cent. by 2011.

14-19 Diplomas

19 **Mr. Swire:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of levels of take-up of the 14-19 diplomas; and if he will make a statement. [261308]

Jim Knight: Our latest information shows that around 12,000 young people are currently working towards a diploma qualification. Learners are based in over 140 consortia, in 100 local authorities.

Child Protection: Independent Schools

20. **Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he plans to increase child protection regulation in independent schools. [261309]

Beverley Hughes: Sir Roger Singleton, chair of the Independent Safeguarding Authority is currently leading a review of the arrangements for safeguarding children in independent schools, non-maintained special schools and boarding schools. The review will examine the practical operation of the current statutory and non-statutory safeguarding provisions which have been in place for several years and will establish whether any further improvements are needed. Sir Roger is shortly due to report on his findings.

Youth Justice Board: Reoffending

21. **Alun Michael:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he last met the Chair of the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales to discuss ways to reduce re-offending by young people. [261310]

Beverley Hughes: My right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Justice and I last met the chair and chief executive of the Youth Justice Board, to discuss progress on reducing juvenile reoffending on 3 March 2009. There was an 18.7 per cent. reduction in the frequency rate of juvenile reoffending between 2000 and 2006; the 2007 results will be published on 19 March.

School Finances

23. **Mr. Heath:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his policy is in respect of levels of financial balances and reserves held by schools. [261312]

Jim Knight: It is sound financial management for schools to retain a small surplus from year to year, but balances should not be excessive. We expect schools and local authorities to work together to reduce the level of balances, and we will consider further action if they do not.

Apprenticeships: Preston

24. **Mr. Hendrick:** To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people under 18 years of age resident in Preston completed an apprenticeship in 2008. [261313]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In Preston in 2007/08 160 people aged 16 to 18 completed an apprenticeship, up from only 70 in 2003/04. Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill provisions aim to ensure an apprenticeship place is available for all suitably qualified young people by 2013 and are key to delivering our ambition for one in five young people to be in an apprenticeship in the next decade. We have announced an additional £140 million to provide 35,000 additional places this year, 21,000 of these in the public sector.

Dyslexia

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department classifies dyslexia as a learning difficulty. [261295]

Ed Balls: Yes. My Department's guidance "Data Collection by type of Special Educational Need" (issued in 2005) explains that pupils with specific learning difficulties may have a particular difficulty in learning to read, write, spell or manipulate numbers so that their performance in these areas is below their performance in other areas. The guidance goes on to say that specific learning difficulties include dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia. Dyslexia and dyspraxia are also provided as examples of specific learning difficulties in the SEN Code of Practice.

Children's Services: Public Accountability

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he plans to take to promote public accountability of the management of children's services. [261302]

Beverley Hughes: The local authority's Lead Member for Children's Services is directly accountable to the local electorate. The LM has a crucial role in defining local priorities and outcomes, and in working with the Director of Children's Services, to manage children's services. We will shortly issue revised statutory guidance to clarify the roles and responsibilities of both Lead Member and Director of Children's Services.

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 4 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 947W, on apprentices, how many apprentices his Department currently employs. [252083]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The number of apprentices the Department currently employs is 20.

Children: Databases

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the development costs of ContactPoint have been; and what the estimated maintenance costs are for ContactPoint in 2009. [256072]

Beverley Hughes: The estimated development and set-up cost of ContactPoint is £224 million (most of which is expected to be incurred by the end of the financial year 2009-2010). This includes: the costs of adapting existing systems that will supply data to ContactPoint and the costs of ensuring that data are accurate; adapting the day-to-day systems used by practitioners so they can access ContactPoint from them; and the costs of introducing robust arrangements to ensure proper security, and effective ContactPoint user training.

The latest estimate for running (maintenance) costs in 2009-10 is just under £44 million including inflation, of which most will go directly to local authorities to fund staff to ensure the ongoing running, maintenance, operation and security of ContactPoint.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1067-68W, on children: databases, what the *(a)* necessary safeguarding and *(b)* child protection procedures referred to are. [260865]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 5 March 2009]:* The *(a)* necessary safeguarding and *(b)* child protection procedures referred to in the previous reply of 26 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1067-68W, are those set out in the Government's statutory guidance, Working Together to Safeguard Children (2006). These processes are those established for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and are those used in any circumstance where concerns are raised about the safety or welfare of a child.

Climbing

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which of the myplace projects approved by his Department have climbing walls which meet the standard approved by the British Mountaineering Council; how many instructors are provided for each climbing wall; to what standard each instructor is trained; which climbing walls include ropes; what height each rope is; and how many projects were designed in consultation with the British Mountaineering Council. [261743]

Beverley Hughes: All applications to "myplace" were assessed by the Big Lottery Fund (BIG) against the criteria set out in guidance materials. Investment decisions were made by BIG's investment committee on behalf of DCSF.

BIG report that 23 of the 62 projects funded to date contained plans to provide a climbing wall within their application form. No data are held on the nature or quality standard of these proposed climbing walls, as this information was not requested in the "myplace" application form.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* Sport England and *(b)* the British Mountaineering Council on the development of climbing walls in his Department's myplace project. [261745]

Beverley Hughes: The Department has not had any discussions yet with either Sport England or the British Mountaineering Council on the development of climbing walls within "myplace" projects.

The Big Lottery technical team and the "myplace" support and development team will provide advice and guidance to "myplace" projects on a wide range of building design matters including climbing walls. All "myplace" projects' construction plans have to be agreed with Big Lottery Fund's technical team and comply with all relevant standards.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what campaigns his Department has supported in the last 12 months. [261040]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department has delivered 10 advertising campaigns in the last 12 months. The campaign titles are as follows:

Childcare and Early Years
Diplomas
Frank
Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)
National Year of Reading
Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)
Cyber-bullying
Teenage Pregnancy
Who Do We Think We Are
Parent Know How.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what grants of more than £1,000 his Department has made to an outside body in the last 12 months. [261053]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: This question can be answered only at disproportionate cost. The total amount allocated for grant payments as a proportion of the Department's 2008-09 Supply Estimate is £49.3 billion or 95.5 per cent.

The Department annually makes over 130,000 separate payments. It is not possible to distinguish individual grant payments from other types of financial transactions without breaching the disproportionate cost limit.

Further Education: Admissions

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many full-time equivalent places he has allocated to further education colleges for 16 to 19 year old education and training in each year from 2009-10 to 2011-12. [261679]

Jim Knight: Further education allocations are made on the basis of standard learner numbers (SLN) and not on a full-time equivalent (FTE) basis. SLN's take account of the actual size of a learner's learning programme while FTE's calculate volumes in relation to full-time learning (defined as a minimum of 450 guided learning hours).

The number of SLN's allocated to colleges in 2008/09 was 1,017,000, and the planned volume of SLN's for colleges in 2009/10 is 1,021,000. These 2009/10 volumes will be amended in light of the allocations process to colleges, which is intended to be completed by 13 March 2009.

Allocations for 2010/11 will be determined through the allocations process in the autumn. The 2011/12 allocations will be subject to the next spending review.

GCSE: Disadvantaged

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals were entered for GCSEs in each subject in 2008. [244292]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is given in the following table.

Number and proportion of pupils[1] eligible for free school meals who were entered for GCSEs in each subject[2] in 2008

Course	Number	Percentage[3]
Full GCSE English Literature	47,169	63.2
Full GCSE Design and Technology and Electronics	1,068	1.4
Full GCSE Design and Technology and Food Technology	7,397	9.9
Full GCSE Design and Technology and Graphics	5,703	7.6
Full GCSE Design and Technology and Resistant Materials Technology	8,133	10.9
Full GCSE Design and Technology and Systems Control	426	0.6
Full GCSE Design and Technology and Textiles Technology	4,458	6.0
Full GCSE Art and Design	18,334	24.5
Full GCSE History	13,358	17.9
Full GCSE Geography	11,518	15.4
Full GCSE French	10,237	13.7
Full GCSE German	3,193	4.3
Full GCSE Business Studies	5,713	7.6
Full GCSE Religious Studies	15,747	21.1
Short GCSE Religious Studies	23,616	31.6
Full GCSE Physical Education	11,403	15.3
Full GCSE Physics	2,078	2.8
Full GCSE Chemistry	2,130	2.9
Full GCSE Biological Science	2,732	3.7
Full GCSE Drama	8,742	11.7
Full GCSE Information Technology	5,299	7.1
Short GCSE Information Technology	5,643	7.6
Full GCSE Spanish	3,386	4.5
Full GCSE Music	3,303	4.4
Full GCSE Maths	68,365	91.5
Full GCSE English	66,098	88.5

Number and proportion of pupils[1] eligible for free school meals who were entered for GCSEs in each subject[2] in 2008

Course	Number	Percentage[3]
Full GCSE Double English	544	0.7
Full GCSE Single Award Science	56,101	75.2
Full GCSE Statistics	6,587	8.8
Full GCSE Media, Film and Television Studies	7,445	10.0
Full GCSE Fine Art	4,169	5.6
Full GCSE Office Technology	3,941	5.3
Full GCSE Home Economics: Child Development	3,735	5.0
Full GCSE Dutch	188	0.3
Full GCSE Italian	171	0.2
Full GCSE Modern Greek	39	0.0
Full GCSE Portuguese	271	0.4
Full GCSE Arabic	571	0.8
Full GCSE Bengali	640	0.9
Full GCSE Chinese	110	0.1
Full GCSE Gujarati	42	0.1
Full GCSE Japanese	41	0.1
Full GCSE Modern Hebrew	14	0.0
Full GCSE Punjabi	102	0.1
Full GCSE Polish	54	0.1
Full GCSE Russian	89	0.1
Full GCSE Turkish	527	0.7
Full GCSE Urdu	1,365	1.8
Full GCSE Persian	158	0.2
Short GCSE Social Science Citizenship	10,195	13.7
Full GCSE Double Award Science	101	0.1
Vocational GCSE Business	2,472	3.3
Vocational GCSE Health and Social Care	4,510	6.0
Vocational GCSE Leisure and Tourism	1,793	2.4
Vocational GCSE Science	3,082	4.1

[1] Only those pupils at the end of key stage 4 are included.
[2] GCSE subjects that are not classified on the National Pupil Database have not been included.
[3] Proportion of all pupils eligible for free school meals.
Source:
National Pupil Database

Gifted Children: GCE A-Level

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children registered as gifted and talented gained three or more A Grades at A Level in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* the latest year for which figures are available. [260697]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 3 March 2009]*: National data on gifted and talented pupils have only been collected since 2006. In that year 3,162 students aged 16 to 18 identified as gifted and talented in maintained schools achieved three or more A grades at A level. The corresponding figure for 2008 was 7,081. These figures do not include young people attending post-16 institutions, for which equivalent data are not available.

Nurseries: Closures

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the rate of closure of nurseries in the last six months; and if he will make a statement. [260613]

Beverley Hughes: During the period from 31 March 2008 to 31 August 2008 (the latest period for which figures are available) the number of Ofsted-registered full day care settings rose by 325 from 14,275 to 14,600. The number of places available in those settings increased by 13,100 from 622,500 to 635,600 over the same period.

Private Education

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many independent special schools there were in each local authority area in each year since 1997. [259259]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The number of independent schools catering wholly, or mainly, for pupils with special educational needs, in each local authority area, in each year since 1997, are shown in the following table:

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Barking and Dagenham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Barnet	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2
Barnsley	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	3	4	4
Bath and North East Somerset	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
Bexley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Birmingham	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	3	4	6	7	7
Blackburn with Darwen	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2
Blackpool	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
Bolton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2
Bournemouth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bracknell Forest	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Bradford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2
Brent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Brighton and Hove	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1
Bristol City of	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	4	4	5	5
Bromley	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2
Buckinghamshire	1	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	5
Bury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	3
Calderdale	0	0	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2
Cambridgeshire	3	3	4	5	4	5	5	5	6	9	10	11	11
Camden	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Cheshire	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3		3	5	5	5
City of London	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cornwall	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	2
County	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2
Croydon	1	2	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	5	7	7
Cumbria	8	9	9	9	10	10	11	11	11	11	12	13	13
Darlington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Derby	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Derbyshire	3	3	3	4	4	4	5	5	5	7	9	10	10
Devon	5	5	5	5	5	7	8	8	7	9	9	10	11
Doncaster	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3
Dorset	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Dudley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Durham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ealing	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2
East Riding of Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	3	3	3
East Sussex	5	4	4	4	5	6	7	7	6	6	6	8	8
Enfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
Essex	5	5	5	5	5	5	6	6	6	6	7	9	9
Gateshead	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gloucestershire	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	5	5	5
Greenwich	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hackney	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Halton	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	3	10	12	12
Hammersmith and Fulham	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1
Hampshire	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	10	10	10	10
Haringey	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2
Harrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hartlepool	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Havering	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Herefordshire	3	3	3	3	4	4	4	4	5	5	4	4	4
Hertfordshire	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	4	4
Hillingdon	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Hounslow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Isle of Wight	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Isles Of Scilly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Islington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kensington and Chelsea	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	2
Kent	10	11	14	15	17	17	18	19	21	30	32	37	37
Kingston upon Hull City of	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Kingston upon Thames	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kirklees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	2
Knowsley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lambeth	2	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lancashire	8	9	9	10	13	13	13	15	21	24	26	30	30
Leeds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Leicester	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Leicestershire	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	4	6	8	8
Lewisham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lincolnshire	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	2	4
Liverpool	0	0	0	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2
Luton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Manchester	1	2	2	2	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Medway	0	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2
Merton	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Middlesbrough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Milton Keynes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Newcastle upon Tyne	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Newham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Norfolk	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	5	6	6	7	7

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
North East Lincolnshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	D	0	0	0	0	0
North Lincolnshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	2
North Somerset	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Tyneside	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
North Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	2	2
Northamptonshire	2	2	3	3	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	6	6
Northumberland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Nottingham	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Nottinghamshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	7	7	7	7
Oldham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Oxfordshire	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3
Peterborough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	2	2
Plymouth	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Poole	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Portsmouth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reading	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Redbridge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Redcar and Cleveland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Richmond upon Thames	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rochdale	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	19	19	24	24
Rotherham	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rutland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	2
Salford	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Sandwell	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Sefton	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	2	1
Sheffield	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Shropshire	4	3	4	5	6	7	7	7	9	15	15	15	15
Slough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Solihull	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
Somerset	6	6	9	9	12	11	11	11	12	14	15	17	17
South Gloucestershire	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
South Tyneside	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southampton	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	3	3	3	3
Southend-on-Sea	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	2	2
Southwark	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
St. Helens	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Staffordshire	4	4	4	3	3	4	4	4	5	4	6	8	8
Stockport	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Stockton-on-Tees	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stoke-on-Trent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
Suffolk	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	6	6	7	8	8
Sunderland	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Surrey	6	6	7	7	8	7	6	7	7	7	9	10	10
Sutton	2	2	2	2	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Swindon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tameside	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1
Telford and Wrekin	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	3	3	3	5	5	5
Thurrock	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Torbay	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tower Hamlets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trafford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wakefield	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2
Walsall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Waltham Forest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wandsworth	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Warrington	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	3	7	9	9
Warwickshire	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	3	3
West Berkshire	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
West Sussex	6	6	6	7	7	7	8	8	10	14	15	17	17
Westminster	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2
Wigan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Wiltshire	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	5	6	5	6	6	6
Windsor and Maidenhead	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wirral	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wokingham	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
Wolverhampton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Worcestershire	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
York	0	0	0	0	*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: Edubase.

Pupil Referral Units

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1559-60W, on pupil referral units, how many pupil referral units *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in each local authority area in each year; and how many (i) opened and (ii) closed in 2008. [257797]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The numbers of Pupil Referral Units Opened and Closed between 1998 and 2008, by local authority area are detailed in the following tables.

Please note that the total figures in these tables differ slightly from those to the answer of 21 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1559-60W, as there have been a number of retrospective changes implemented on the Department's database.

(a) Number of pupil referral units opened in each year, by local authority area

	Year of opening											
Local authority	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*Grand total*
Barking and Dagenham	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Barnet	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Barnsley	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Bath and North East Somerset	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Bedfordshire	1	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Birmingham	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
Blackburn with Darwen	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Blackpool	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Bolton	—	—	2	—	—	8	—	2	3	—	—	15
Bournemouth	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Bracknell Forest	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Bradford	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	6
Brent	—	—	—	—	4	1	1	—	—	—	1	7
Bristol City of	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	3
Bromley	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Buckinghamshire	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Bury	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Calderdale	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Cambridgeshire	—	—	—	4	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	6
Camden	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	3
Cheshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Cornwall	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	3
Coventry	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	—	1	5
Croydon	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	3
Cumbria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Darlington	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Derby	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Derbyshire	1	—	—	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	5
Devon	—	—	—	1	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	5
Doncaster	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	4	6
Dorset	—	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	4
Dudley	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Ealing	1	—	—	—	—	1		—	—	—	—	2
East Riding of Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Enfield	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Essex	—	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	4	—	—	8
Gateshead	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Gloucestershire	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	3	—	5
Greenwich	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1

(a) Number of pupil referral units opened in each year, by local authority area

Local authority	Year of opening											Grand total
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	
Hackney		1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	3
Halton	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Hampshire	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	3
Haringey	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Hartlepool	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Havering	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	2	1	—	—	7
Herefordshire	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Hillingdon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1		1
Hounslow	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
Isle of Wight	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Islington	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	3
Kent	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	3	6	14
Kingston upon Hull City of	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Kirklees	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Knowsley	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Lambeth	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	1	—	—	5
Lancashire	—	1	—	—	—	5	1	2	1	1	—	11
Leeds	—	—	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	4
Leicester	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	5
Leicestershire	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
Lewisham	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
Lincolnshire	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Liverpool	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	4
Luton	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Manchester	2	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	5
Medway	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	3
Merton	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Middlesbrough	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	4
Milton Keynes	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	3
Newcastle upon Tyne	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Newham	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Norfolk	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
North East Lincolnshire	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	2
North Somerset	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3
North Tyneside	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
North Yorkshire	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Northamptonshire	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	4
Northumberland	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Nottingham	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	3
Nottinghamshire	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
Oldham	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Oxfordshire	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Portsmouth	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Reading	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	4
Redbridge	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Richmond upon Thames	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Rochdale	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Rotherham	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	3	7
Salford	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	5
Sandwell	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2	—	5
Sefton	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Sheffield	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Shropshire	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Slough	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Solihull	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	3
Somerset	—	1	—	—	1	3	8	—	4	2	—	19
South Gloucestershire	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Southampton	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Southend-on-Sea	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Southwark	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	3
St Helens	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Staffordshire	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	4

(a) Number of pupil referral units opened in each year, by local authority area

Local authority	Year of opening											Grand total
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	
Stockport	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Stockton-on-Tees	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Stoke-on-Trent	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	3
Suffolk	—	1	—	1	1	—	3	2	—	—	—	8
Sunderland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4
Surrey	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	1	—	6
Sutton	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Swindon	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Tameside	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Telford and Wrekin	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	5
Thurrock	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Torbay	—	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Trafford	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	4
Walsall	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	3
Waltham Forest	—	—	—	—	4	1	1	—	—	—	—	7
Wandsworth	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	3
Warrington	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Warwickshire	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
West Berkshire	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	3	—	—	—	6
West Sussex	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Westminster	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	3
Wigan	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	4	7
Wiltshire	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Windsor and Maidenhead	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Wirral	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Wokingham	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	3
Wolverhampton	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Worcestershire	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
York	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Grand total	18	19	23	28	72	75	55	34	27	18	32	401

(b) Number of pupil referral units closed in each year, by local authority area

Local authority	Year of closure											Grand total
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	
Barnet	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Barnsley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Bedfordshire	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Birmingham	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Bolton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	—	—	8
Bracknell Forest	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Bradford	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	3
Brent	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	4
Brighton and Hove	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Bristol City of	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Bromley	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Buckinghamshire	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Calderdale	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Cambridgeshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Cheshire	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Cornwall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Coventry	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	4
Darlington	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Derby	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Derbyshire	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Devon	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Doncaster	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	5	6
Dorset	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Dudley	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Ealing	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
East Sussex	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Enfield	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
Essex	—	—	1	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	5

(b) Number of pupil referral units closed in each year, by local authority area

Local authority	Year of closure											Grand total
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	
Gateshead	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	1
Gloucestershire	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	–	4
Greenwich	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	1
Hackney	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
Hampshire	–	–	–	1	3	–	1	–	–	–	–	5
Harrow	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
Hartlepool	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
Havering	–	–	–	–	–	3	–	–	2	–	–	5
Herefordshire	–	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2
Hertfordshire	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
Hounslow	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	2
Isle of Wight	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
Islington	–	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	3
Kent	2	1	–	1	1	2	–	–	–	–	–	7
Kingston upon Hull City of	–	–	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2
Knowsley	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	1
Lambeth	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	2	–	–	1	4
Lancashire	1	–	–	–	–	1	1	2	1	2	–	8
Leeds	2	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	6
Leicester	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	2
Leicestershire	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	2	–	–	–	3
Lewisham	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	1	–	3
Lincolnshire	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1
Liverpool	–	–	–	1	–	4	–	–	–	–	1	6
Luton	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
Manchester	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1	–	–	2
Medway	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	–	–	–	2
Merton	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	1
Milton Keynes	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1
Newcastle upon Tyne	–	2	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	3
Norfolk	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
North East Lincolnshire	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1	–	–	2
North Somerset	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
North Tyneside	–	1	1	–	–	1	1	–	1	–	–	5
Northamptonshire	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	–	2
Nottingham	1	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	4
Nottinghamshire	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4	–	–	–	4
Oxfordshire	–	–	–	–	6	–	–	–	–	–	–	6
Peterborough	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
Portsmouth	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	3	–	–	4
Reading	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	5	–	–	–	5
Rotherham	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	2	4
Salford	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	2	3
Sandwell	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
Solihull	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
Somerset	–	–	–	–	–	2	1	–	2	3	1	9
South Tyneside	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	1
Southwark	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	2	4
Staffordshire	1	–	1	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4
Stockport	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	1
Stockton-on-Tees	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1
Stoke-on-Trent	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	3
Sunderland	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1
Surrey	2	3	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	7
Telford and Wrekin	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	–	–	2
Thurrock	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	1
Torbay	–	–	–	–	5	–	–	–	–	–	–	5
Trafford	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1
Walsall	–	–	–	–	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	2
Waltham Forest	–	–	–	–	–	2	2	–	–	–	–	4
Warrington	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1

(b) Number of pupil referral units closed in each year, by local authority area

	Year of closure											
Local authority	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*Grand total*
Warwickshire	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
West Berkshire	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	1	—	—	6
Wigan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
Wirral	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Wokingham	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
Wolverhampton	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Worcestershire	2	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Grand total	28	20	21	15	26	29	24	35	25	15	25	263

Source:
EduBase

Schools: Inspections

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether Ofsted inspectors are subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check before taking up their appointment. [260054]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 4 March 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

All Ofsted inspectors are subject to Criminal Records Bureau checks when they are appointed and before they start working for Ofsted. This applies to those we employ directly and those who undertake inspection work on behalf of our inspection service providers.

A copy of this reply has been sent to the right hon. Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

Schools: Sexuality

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent by his Department on the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender History Month; and what guidance his Department has issued to schools on the matter. [260719]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In November 2008, the Department agreed to support School's Out with funding for the launch of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) History Month. A grant of up to £14,960 was provided by the Department for this event. The Department has not issued any guidance to schools on LGBT History Month.

Schools: South West

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to provide facilities in schools for *(a)* sporting activity and *(b)* participation in the arts for young people in the South West. [253498]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Through Building Schools for the Future (BSF) and the Primary Capital Programme, all authorities will have the opportunity to review local provision strategically. As authorities enter BSF, they are now required to establish a PE and Sport Stakeholder Group, which inputs to the programme throughout the various phases of the programme, from the initial vision and on to development and delivery. The Strategy for Change guidance sets out expectations for sport, and is currently being revised to include culture.

In addition, a total of £3.9 million has been awarded to specialist sports colleges in the south-west as part of the £30 million capital programme to improve sports facilities at the most needy sports colleges.

Special Educational Needs: Pilot Schemes

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which pilot schemes related to special educational needs his Department will run in 2009. [260939]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: We have commissioned and will be running throughout 2009 several pilot projects in relation to special educational needs (SEN).

We have been funding the 'No to Failure' project since 2007 (2009 will be the last year of its funding) to trailblaze and evaluate the impact of specialist teaching for children with dyslexia, with three local authorities, and schools within their area, taking part in the pilots.

We have been funding Dyslexia Action since 2008 to run Partnership for Literacy pilots until 2010. These pilots will provide a body of specialist knowledge in each school so they are better placed to meet the needs of children struggling in the bottom 10 per cent. of attainment, including those at risk of dyslexia.

The Lamb inquiry commissioned eight projects, to run over the 2008/09 school year. These will provide opportunities for local authorities to work with partners to explore ways of increasing parental confidence in the SEN assessment process.

We also have pilot projects that have started or are due to start in 2009. We have commenced a pilot project to raise awareness and status of British Sign Language (BSL). This project started in January 2009 and will run until 2011; in addition to awareness raising one of the project's key objectives is to increase the BSL skill levels of the children's work force to meet the needs of pupil who use BSL.

The 'Achievement for All' pilots are intended to improve outcomes and progress of children with SEN and disabled children. The pilots will begin in schools in September 2009 in 10 local authorities.

We will start a pilot on improving the supply of curriculum materials for visually impaired and dyslexic pupils in spring 2009.

Additionally, the Department also runs a grant programme (the Children and Young People and Families Grant programme), which funds projects, and there are a number of funded pathfinders. We also run a number of general pilots that benefit children with SEN, for example the 'Making Good Progress' pilots.

Teachers TV

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* hits and *(b)* unique users the Teachers TV website has received in each year since its inception. [261041]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Data are only collected on the number of unique users and the number of visits. Data on the number of hits that the Teachers TV website receives have not been collected since April 2006, as this was not considered an accurate way to measure success.

The data are set out in the following table:

	Number of unique users	*Number of visits*	*Number of hits*
2005	[1]675,926	[1]1,439,479	[1]47,262,098
2006	1,[illegible]8,211	2,543,530	[2]41,272,550
2007	1,822,524	3,419,029	—
2008	2,818,295	4,184,890	—
2009[3]	278,082	378,005	—

[1] Does not include data for April 2005. [2] Includes only data on the number of hits from January to April 2006. [3] Data relate to January 2009.

Teachers: Training

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the *(a)* target number of places and *(b)* number of places filled for (i) mathematics, (ii) physics and (iii) chemistry teacher trainees for each type of teacher training was in each of the last 10 years. [260809]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the number of training places made available to the Training and Development Agency (TDA) for mathematics and science for the academic years from 1999/2000 to 2008/09:

Initial teacher training (ITT) places[1] by subject, 1999/2000 to 2008/09, England

	Mathematics	*Science*
1999/2000[2]	1,680	2,390
2000/01	1,850	2,690
2001/02	1,940	2,810
2002/03	1,940	2,850
2003/04	2,315	3,225
2004/05	2,350	3,225
2005/06	2,350	3,325
2006/07	2,350	3,225
2007/08	2,350	3,225
2008/09	2,735	3,615

[1] Targets prior to 2008/09 include School Centred ITT but exclude Employment Based ITT (EBITT). Targets for 2008/09 include EBITT, but exclude Teach First.
[2] 1999/2000 places exclude 600 Maths and Science 600 Scheme places.
Source:
DCSF

Recruitment figures to mainstream college-based ITT courses in these subjects for each academic year between 1999/2000 and 2008/09 are shown in the following table:

Recruitment to mainstream ITT Courses[1, 2], 1999/2000 to 2008/09

England	*1999/2000*	*2000/01*	*2001/02*	*2002/03*	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09[3]*
Mathematics	1,300	1,290	1,550	1,670	1,940	2,030	1,920	2,000	1,970	2,040
Science[4]	2,360	2,410	2,590	2,700	2,870	2,830	2,890	2,990	3,040	3,130
of which										
Physics	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	350	470	510
Chemistry	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	530	730	800

[1] Figures cover universities and other HE institutions, SCITT and OU but exclude employment based routes.
[2] Recruitment numbers shown are rounded to the nearest 10.
[3] Recruitment figures for 2008/09 are provisional and are subject to change. They comprise actual registrations and trainees who are expected to enter ITT during the academic year.
[4] Prior to 2006/07, the breakdown for science subjects was not available.
Source:
TDA Survey of ITT Providers/Trainee Numbers Census.

Recruitment figures to employer based ITT courses in these subjects for each academic year between 1999/2000 and 2008/09 are shown in the following table:

Intake on employment based ITT[1, 2], 1999/2000 to 2008/09

England	*1999/2000*	*2000/01*	*2001/02*	*2002/03*	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09[3]*
Mathematics	70	120	300	390	570	560	520	490	450	340
Science[4]	80	170	460	520	660	750	660	610	570	400
of which										
Physics	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	50	50	50
Chemistry	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	70	80	50

[1] Recruitment figures for 2008/09 are for the autumn term only and are provisional. Further trainees are expected to start on employment based routes during the year. Figures from 2003/04 onwards are subject to future revision.
[2] Recruitment numbers shown are rounded to the nearest 10.
[3] Recruitment figures for 2008/09 are provisional and are subject to change.
[4] Prior to 2006/07, the breakdown for science subjects was not available.
Source:
TDA Survey of ITT Providers/Trainee Numbers Census.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment his Department has made of the merits of carrying out a review of the future of the Bachelor of Education course; and if he will make a statement. [260946]

Jim Knight: The Department has given no consideration to the need to carry out a review of the future of the Bachelor of Education course. Undergraduate teacher training courses remain an important route for training school teachers.

Young People: Unemployment

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of people aged 16 to 24 years were not in education, employment or training in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* each of the last eight quarters for which figures are available, broken down by region. [254534]

Mr. Simon: I have been asked to reply.

The following tables show estimates of the number and percentage of people aged[1] 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training (NEET) for regions in England. These estimates are from the labour force survey (LFS).

We are unable to provide NEET estimates for 1997 as all the data necessary to produce them are not available on datasets prior to quarter 2 2000, therefore we have given the earliest data possible for reference.

[1] Age used is the respondent's academic age, which is defined as their age at the preceding 31 August.

Not in education, employment or training (NEET) by region, age 16 to 24

Number

	Q2 2000	*Q1 2007*	*Q2 2007*	*Q3 2007*	*Q4 2007*	*Q1 2008*	*Q2 2008*	*Q3 2008*	*Q4 2008*
England	655,000	828,000	833,000	909,000	782,000	810,000	840,000	973,000	857,000
North East	62,000	48,000	47,000	52,000	49,000	52,000	56,000	65,000	54,000
North West	93,000	127,000	134,000	144,000	120,000	136,000	139,000	151,000	142,000
Yorks and Humber	74,000	97,000	92,000	105,000	82,000	75,000	101,000	119,000	92,000
East Midlands	60,000	72,000	66,000	81,000	70,000	69,000	71,000	86,000	68,000
West Midlands	75,000	111,000	107,000	111,000	93,000	95,000	98,000	119,000	105,000
East of England	52,000	76,000	84,000	92,000	74,000	87,000	77,000	82,000	79,000
London	130,000	119,000	130,000	136,000	123,000	129,000	132,000	149,000	131,000
South East	67,000	107,000	112,000	125,000	116,000	104,000	111,000	131,000	122,000
South West	42,000	70,000	61,000	63,000	56,000	63,000	55,000	71,000	63,000

Percentage

	Q2 2000	*Q1 2007*	*Q2 2007*	*Q3 2007*	*Q4 2007*	*Q1 2008*	*Q2 2008*	*Q3 2008*	*Q4 2008*
England	12.8	14.1	14.2	15.4	13.1	13.6	14.0	16.2	14.2
North East	22.6	15.2	14.6	16.4	15.3	16.2	17.4	19.6	16.7
North West	13.2	15.2	16.1	17.3	14.2	16.1	16.2	17.6	16.8
Yorks and Humber	14.3	14.5	13.9	15.9	12.3	11.3	15.1	17.8	13.6
East Midlands	13.7	13.8	12.8	15.1	13.0	13.1	13.4	15.9	12.8
West Midlands	13.6	18.0	17.4	17.6	14.7	15.0	15.6	18.7	16.4
East of England	10.2	12.8	14.1	15.2	12.1	14.1	12.5	13.5	12.9
London	14.9	13.8	15.1	15.7	14.2	14.8	14.5	16.5	14.6
South East	8.5	12.0	12.4	14.0	12.8	11.5	12.1	14.4	13.2
South West	9.2	12.7	11.1	11.2	9.8	10.9	9.7	12.7	11.1

Youth Services

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many of the myplace projects approved by his Department are to be managed by local authorities. [261746]

Beverley Hughes: To date, "myplace" funding of £240 million has been awarded to 62 projects. 33 of those projects are local authority (LA) led, however one of these LA-led projects has presented plans to transfer management to the third sector once the capital delivery phase is complete, leaving 32 projects that we expect to be managed by LAs.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department plans to provide support to the 24 June 2009 national round table on detached youth work. [261853]

Beverley Hughes: The Department is aware that the Federation of Detached Youth workers are planning to hold an event on 24 June. The Federation has not extended an invitation to the Department.

Youth Services: Public Consultation

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many young people were involved in consultations on each of his Department's myplace projects; on what dates these consultations took place; and how many young people are directly involved in the management of each of the approved projects. [261744]

Beverley Hughes: All 'myplace' projects have demonstrated that young people, particularly disadvantaged young people, have been and will be active participants in the design, development and management of the new facility.

The Big Lottery Fund reports that it is disproportionate to cost to provide specific information at this notice about how many young people were involved in consultations on each of 'myplace' projects; the dates the consultations took place; and how many young people are directly involved in the management of each of the projects. The Big Lottery Fund is able to report that 'myplace' projects have engaged thousands of young people across the country through a variety of methods including local youth parliaments, councils or neighbourhood forums; through open consultation events, surveys and focus groups; and through their attendance at existing projects. 'myplace' projects have also demonstrated that young people will continue to influence directly the ongoing management of the new facility. Proposed approaches include the use of youth forums, young people sitting directly on management committees, establishing shadow youth boards, appointing a young person as the project's assistant director and passing the governance of the whole project over to young people through the creation of a youth-led trust.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 10 March 2009

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Welfare

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government has taken to ensure the welfare of sea creatures in the last 12 months. [261470]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The UK Government's vision for the marine environment is for clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas. To this end, the Government have taken steps within the past 12 months to protect sea life through a diverse range of initiatives and policies, including:

Developing the Marine and Coastal Access Bill

The Marine and Coastal Access Bill is currently progressing through the parliamentary process; it had its Second Reading in the House of Lords on 15 December 2008 and started its House of Lords Committee stage on 12 January. It is expected to gain Royal Assent in the summer or autumn of 2009. The Bill will bring significant changes to the way the marine area is managed and protected, and will help us towards our vision for the marine environment.

Assessing the state of UK Seas

The Government make regular assessments of the state of the UK seas to evaluate the extent to which they are clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse. The first report, Charting Progress, was published in 2005 and is available on the DEFRA website at:

www.defra.gov.uk

The second report is currently being prepared and is expected to be published in 2010. The monitoring and assessment work and evidence collection is co-ordinated across the UK through the UK Marine Monitoring and Assessment Strategy (UKMMAS).

Designating further Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

In the last 12 months, DEFRA has designated five additional marine candidate special areas of conservation (SACs) in UK offshore waters, which takes the total number of MPAs in UK waters to 156. These new sites have also been added to the OSPAR (Commission for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic) list of MPAs.

Furthermore, Natural England (NE) is currently carrying out pre-consultation discussions with stakeholders regarding a further eight marine sites in English waters.

Closing valuable areas to the most damaging activities

On 19 June 2008, my predecessor, my hon. Friend the Member for Chatham and Aylesford (Jonathan Shaw), made the decision to close an area 60 square nautical miles in Lyme Bay to the most damaging fishing practices. A statutory instrument was signed off by the Minister and laid in Parliament, and came into force on 11 July 2008. Lyme Bay is one of the most important areas for marine life in England, and the decision to close 60 square nautical miles to the most damaging fishing methods demonstrated the Government's commitment to protecting the richness of our marine heritage as part of our goal of living within our environmental means.

On 6 March 2008, my hon. Friend announced his decision to ban scallop dredging and other towed bottom gear from the outer part of the Fal and Helford special area of conservation (SAC). The ban was implemented through a statutory instrument which came into force on 1 October 2008. Following DEFRA's decision to ban scallop dredging, Cornwall Sea Fisheries Committee, with support from DEFRA, is considering introducing a byelaw in order to establish an experimental MPA in the outer SAC area for the purposes of assessing and managing the scallop stocks within it. The byelaw would prohibit all forms of scallop harvesting, including through diving. The public consultation on the draft byelaw was concluded on 15 February 2009. Cornwall Sea Fisheries Committee is currently assessing the results of the consultation.

Working with Europe to protect species and habitats

At the 60th annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) which took place in June 2008, the UK played an important role in the conservation and protection of cetaceans worldwide. We were able to defeat a Danish proposal for an annual take of 10 humpback whales in their Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling (ASW) hunt, thereby saving the needless slaughter of 50 humpbacks in the period 2008-12. We also made telling interventions on whale welfare; scientific whaling; the plight of the Western Pacific Gray Whale population; recent trade in whale meat from Iceland and Norway to Japan; and the Japanese Dall's porpoise hunt. The UK will continue to strongly support the IWC moratorium on commercial whaling and oppose all forms of whaling, other than limited whaling operations by indigenous people for subsistence purposes to meet a defined and substantiated need.

Marine Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPS)

DEFRA has established a stakeholder group to drive forward the delivery of marine biodiversity. This group is chaired by NE and reports to the England Biodiversity Group.

Through the Countdown 2010 grant programme, NE specifically called for projects to help the delivery marine biodiversity targets. Three large projects were awarded funds totalling £286,000. These were:

The Isles of Scilly Marine Biodiversity Project;

British Elasmobranchs: building and applying knowledge for a sustainable future. This project aims to arrest, and where possible reverse, the decline in elasmobranch (shark, skate and ray) populations; and

Solent Seal Tagging Project.

NE also supported the Marine Conservation Society to produce the Marine Local Biodiversity Action Plan Guidance Manual for England published in 2008.

In addition, NE published a report, State of the Natural Environment, in 2008, a copy of which is available on their website at:

www.naturalengland.org.uk

This included a chapter on the marine environment and its biodiversity. Further progress on the delivery of marine BAP targets is being captured through the 2008 Biodiversity Action Plan reporting process. This information is still being collated and will be available shortly.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government has taken to ensure the welfare of circus animals in the last 12 months. [261471]

Jane Kennedy: The welfare of circus animals is protected by the Animal Welfare Act 2006, which makes it an offence to cause unnecessary suffering to any animal. The Act also contains a Duty of Care to animals—this means that anyone responsible for an animal must take reasonable steps to make sure the animal's welfare needs are met.

During the last 12 months DEFRA has been investigating whether further regulation of the use of wild animals in circuses is required.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government has taken to ensure the welfare of domestic pets in the last 12 months. [261473]

Jane Kennedy: The welfare of domestic pets is protected by the Animal Welfare Act 2006, which makes it an offence to cause unnecessary suffering to any animal. The Act also contains a Duty of Care to animals—this means that anyone responsible for an animal must take reasonable steps to make sure the animal's welfare needs are met.

In November 2008, the Secretary of State launched a public consultation on the new code of practice for cats, dogs and horses. The main purpose of the codes is to provide practical guidance on pet owners' responsibilities under the Animal Welfare Act. The consultation exercise closed at the end of last year, and my Department is analysing the responses before the codes are approved by Parliament.

Flood Control

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what changes he has made to future expenditure plans to meet the threat to the UK of flooding from global warming. [260900]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Government are committed to effective management of flood and coastal erosion risk. Spending across central and local government has increased from £307 million in 1996-97 to some £650 million this year and will total £2.15 billion over three years to 2010-11.

As announced in the 2008 Pre Budget Report, £20 million has been brought forward from 2010-11 into 2009-10 as part of the fiscal stimulation package, which will mean earlier protection for 27,000 homes.

Floods: Sutton

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which properties in the London borough of Sutton have been assessed to be at risk of flooding by the Environment Agency; which areas and streets have been identified as at risk; and if he will make a statement. [260395]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency's Flood Map indicates that within the London borough of Sutton, 3,018 properties are within Flood Zone 3 and 2,578 properties lie within Flood Zone 2.

A flood map indicating the location of the Flood Zones and a list of the properties at risk have been placed in the library of the House.

Genetically Modified Organisms

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the Government's policy on the growing of genetically modified maize is. [261643]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Our general policy is that genetically modified (GM) crops should only be grown if the evidence shows that they will not have any adverse effect on human health and the environment. We therefore support the existing European Union (EU) controls which provide for a robust case-by-case safety assessment.

Only one type of GM maize seed is currently being marketed for cultivation in the EU. It is designed to be resistant to an insect pest that we do not have in the UK, and the GM trait has been bred into maize varieties that are not suitable for UK growing conditions. The GM seed is therefore not being sold here.

Pesticides: EU Action

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he plans to take to implement the new EU pesticides legislation; and what the timetable for implementation will be. [258817]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Government have generally welcomed the European Commission's thematic strategy on the sustainable use of pesticides. However, throughout the negotiation process, the UK consistently argued that the proposals should be based on sound evidence and supported by an impact assessment. In particular, we remain opposed to the use of hazard cut off criteria which will have a detrimental agronomic impact, but have not been demonstrated to deliver a positive benefit for human health. In the absence of an impact assessment, it is impossible to judge whether there will be any positive benefit accruing from this element of the proposals.

Nevertheless, the regulation concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market and the framework Directive on the sustainable use of pesticides are expected to be approved by the Council in the near future. They will then be published in the Official Journal of the European Union.

The regulation will enter into force 20 days after publication. It will apply generally 18 months later, with specific timescales laid down for certain provisions and transitional measures for active substances already subject to approval arrangements under Council Directive 91/414/EEC.

The Directive will enter into force on the day following publication. Member states will have two years to develop any implementing legislation or administrative provisions, with specific timescales laid down for the implementation of certain provisions.

The Government are developing detailed plans for implementing the new legislation and will consult stakeholders on proposed measures where appropriate.

Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 332W, on redundancy, what estimate he has made of the annual payroll savings resulting from staff exit schemes in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07, *(c)* 2007-08 and *(d)* 2008-09 excluding the cost of severance packages; and what estimate he has made of the equivalent figures for 2009-10. [254460]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 5 February 2009]:* DEFRA has run two voluntary early departure schemes since 2006. The first of these ran from December 2006 to July 2007, and the second from September 2007 to January 2008. The material forecast core DEFRA paybill savings up to 2010-11 due to early departures via those schemes are:

	£ million
2007-08	10
2008-09	17.2
2009-10	17.9
2010-11	18.6

Further analysis is not readily available.

Rights of Way: Coastal Areas

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what differences there will be between land proposed to be designated as a coastal route under the Marine and Coastal Access Bill and land designated under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 as coastal access land. [261420]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The line of the route will be proposed under the procedures set out in the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 and will be established and signed as the intended route for people who want to walk along the coast. However, the access rights for both the route and the wider margin will be provided for under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and will be subject to the provisions of that Act as amended by the Marine and Coastal Access Bill.

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether, under the terms of the Marine and Coastal Access Bill, designation of land as coastal access land will affect development carried out under the General (Permitted Development) Order 1995; [261421]

(2) whether land designated as coastal access land under the provisions of the Marine and Coastal Access Bill will have the same status as a public right of way where development or change of use of land is proposed. [261422]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The coastal access provisions in part 9 of the Marine and Coastal Access Bill are designed to be flexible so as to minimise the impacts on property and business, and to take account of changes in use and of future developments. The line of the route and spreading room is not fixed permanently and the Bill enables Natural England to review these and propose changes to the Secretary of State (subject to the same system of consultation and representations as the original proposals) at a later date. Certain types of land are excepted from the right of access. The categories of excepted land are set out in Schedule 1 to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and they include buildings and their curtilage and land used for the purposes of a statutory undertaking. Land can become excepted from the right of access at any time if some change or development occurs so that it falls into one of the excepted land categories in Schedule 1. Where development is carried out under the General (Permitted Development) Order 1995, the land will be excepted if it falls into an excepted land category. Public rights of way are governed by a separate and different legal framework.

OLYMPICS

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many staff in her Office *(a)* were disciplined and *(b)* had their employment terminated as a result of a poor sickness record in each of the last 12 months. [262229]

Tessa Jowell: No members of staff in my private office have been disciplined or had their employment terminated as a result of poor sickness record in the last 12 months.

Annual sickness leave statistics are published on the Cabinet Office website in the "Analysis of Sickness Absence in the Civil Service", a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

Olympic Games 2012

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1115W, on the Olympic games 2012, when each of the key stakeholder forums to design and deliver the Olympic opening and closing ceremonies is to take place; what the location of each is; who has been invited to each; what account the London Olympic Committee plans to take of the outcome of each event; and if she will make a statement. [261677]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 6 March 2009]:* The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) has scheduled a number of ceremony forums in every nation and region across the UK in February and March of this year.

Confirmed locations include Birmingham, Belfast, Glasgow, Brighton, London, Newcastle, Wakefield, Cambridge, Leicester, Manchester, Cardiff and Plymouth. Each forum includes around 10-15 diverse creative industry experts selected by the creative programmers in each nation and region, and there will also be special ones for young people.

These are initial fora to scope the ambition of the ceremonies and how to get the whole country involved—they will not finalise the content of the four opening

and closing ceremonies to take place in 2012. The results of the fora will inform LOCOG's decision-making processes on the creative brief for the ceremonies in due course.

Olympic Games 2012: Air Pollution

Tom Brake: To ask the Minister for the Olympics if she will include reduction of air pollution as an objective for the Olympic legacy. [259133]

Tessa Jowell: The Government have set out how the UK aims to meet EU air quality limits in their Air Quality Strategy. We have no plans to set targets outside that strategy specifically for the 2012 Games.

However, we recognise that good air quality could make the Games a platform for demonstrating long-term solutions for improving air quality. Measures being taken include: the Olympic sites aiming to meet the stringent requirements in the London Best Practice Guidance to reduce emissions from demolition and construction; energy efficient buildings acting to lessen emissions; and improved public transport services to reduce the need to travel by car.

Olympic Games 2012: Construction

Tom Brake: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what procedures *(a)* the Olympic Delivery Authority and *(b)* its contractors follow in employing persons to work on the Olympic Park site; and if she will make a statement. [258716]

Tessa Jowell: Vacancies within the Olympic Delivery Authority will normally be advertised on the London 2012 website and recruitment decisions will be based solely on the basis of the applicant's abilities and individual merit as measured against the criteria for the job as set out in the person specification.

The vast majority of employment opportunities that will arise will be contractor's own vacancies. This recruitment is undertaken by the contractors who place vacancies with local job brokerage services across in the five host boroughs. Vacancies are offered exclusively and equally to each of the five host borough employment brokerages for a period of two days. The local brokerage services work in partnership with contractors and the on-site employment and skills managers who match candidates to vacancies.

If, after the first two days, vacancies are not filled, they are then made available to job brokerage services across London for a further two days via Relay London Jobs, and then nationally through the JobCentre Plus network.

Guidance for people interested in seeking work is available on the London 2012 website. The ODA and its partners are constantly improving the access for residents to training and job brokerage around the Games.

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics if she will make it her policy to require construction projects for the London 2012 Olympics to be zero carbon. [259398]

Tessa Jowell: We are aiming for a 50 per cent. reduction in carbon emissions from the built environment of the Olympic Park, by 2013, through a number of initiatives including: making permanent venues 15 per cent. more energy efficient than 2006 Building Regulations standard; and making the homes in the Athletes' Village 44 per cent. more energy efficient than 2006 Building Regulations standard.

A Carbon Management Strategy for the Games is being prepared currently by the London 2012 Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, the Olympic Delivery Authority and the London Development Agency, supported by a technical advisory group, which will look at the carbon impact of hosting the Games.

Olympic Games 2012: Tickets

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what steps her Department is taking to provide that half of the tickets for the London 2012 Olympics will be sold for less than £20; how many tickets for the London 2012 Olympics she estimates will be priced at under £20; and when the final price of tickets will be established. [262015]

Tessa Jowell: The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) is responsible for the ticketing strategy for the London 2012 games. The strategy is currently being developed and information about tickets will be made public in 2010. Tickets will go on sale in 2011. I have held detailed discussions with the chairman, Chief Executive and Head of Ticketing at LOCOG about the developing strategy.

I am absolutely committed to making sure that there are tickets for sale at affordable prices for all. LOCOG is committed to this principle too, and I know they are looking carefully at ticket prices as they develop their strategy.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Leader of the House how much expenditure was incurred in respect of overseas visits which *(a)* she, *(b)* other Ministers in her Office and *(c)* her Office's senior officials undertook in 2008. [262175]

Chris Bryant: Since 1999, the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the financial year 2007-08 was published on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 102WS and for the first time, included details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All travel by Ministers is undertaken in accordance with the 'Ministerial Code'.

No senior officials incurred costs in respect of overseas visits in 2008.

UK Youth Parliament

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Leader of the House with reference to the answer of 25 July 2007 to the hon. Member for Stroud, *Official Report*, column 1124W, on the UK Youth Parliament, what plans she has to discuss the possible use of the Chamber of the House

by the UK Youth Parliament with *(a)* the Modernisation of the House of Commons Committee, *(b)* other committees of the House and *(c)* the House authorities. [261369]

Chris Bryant: The issues involved are ones of principle rather than of practice. It is therefore right that the whole House should decide.

I understand that the House authorities would be able to make appropriate practical arrangements if the House were to decide to allow the Youth Parliament to use the Chamber.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Detainees

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on how many occasions since April 2005 the Government has sought assurances from the US administration on the treatment of detainees, as referred to in the Government's Response to paragraph 131 of the Intelligence and Security Committee's Report on the Handling of Detainees by UK Intelligence Personnel in Afghanistan, Guantánamo Bay and Iraq, Cm 6511. [260259]

David Miliband: Conclusion of the Intelligence and Security Committee's Rendition Report of July 2007 notes that from April 2004

"assurances on humane treatment were properly and routinely sought in operations that involved any risk of rendition and/or U.S. custody."

Detention issues are the subject of frequent and regular discussions with the US administration.

Because of the wide ranging nature of these exchanges we cannot provide statistics on this matter, but they include discussion of policy and processes in place to prevent any mistreatment, as well as detailed discussion of individual cases. Continued close co-operation with the US is absolutely critical to the UK's ability to counter the threat to the UK posed by global terrorism.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what role the National Security Committee has had in *(a)* the review of Afghanistan strategy led by the Prime Minister and *(b)* the 2008 periodic assessment of Afghanistan strategy; and on how many occasions since July 2007 the Committee has convened to discuss Afghanistan. [256064]

David Miliband: Information relating to the proceedings of Cabinet Committees, including when, how often and for how long they meet, is generally not disclosed; as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

However, Ministers meet regularly under the auspices of the Ministerial Committee on National Security, International Relations and Development to discuss the United Kingdom's policy towards Afghanistan, in light of the ongoing review of the Government's Afghanistan strategy. My right hon. Friends the Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary, the International Development Secretary, and the Defence Secretary are kept regularly informed of progress in implementing the strategy.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 362W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, what the main findings of the internal stock-take of Government policy in Afghanistan completed in December 2008 were. [260242]

David Miliband: I refer the right hon. Member to my answer of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1234W.

Burma: USA

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the US administration on its policy on Burma; and if he will make a statement. [261925]

Bill Rammell: We remain in close contact with the US and other like-minded international partners regarding the situation in Burma, bilaterally and in multilateral fora, including at the UN and EU. Recent discussions with the US administration have taken place at official level.

Our shared aim continues to be a credible transition to democracy in Burma that is inclusive. The US and the UK agree on the pressing need for the military regime to release political prisoners including Aung San Suu Kyi. We continue to work with the US and other partners to encourage the Burmese regime to engage with the UN Good Offices Mission.

Climate Change

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 14 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 855-6W, on climate change, which new posts for *(a)* locally-engaged and *(b)* UK-based staff have been created in each of his Department's priority countries for the Government's objectives on climate change. [256989]

David Miliband: The distribution of locally engaged and UK based staff in the priority countries for the Government's objectives on climate change are as set out in the following table.

Country	*LE staff*	*UK based staff*
Argentina	1	—
Bangkok	1	—
Beijing	12	8
Berlin	1	—
Bolivia	1	—
Brasilia	6	4
Canada	4	3
Chennai	2	—
Columbia	1	—
Hanoi	1	—
Jakarta	2	2
Kuala Lumpur	1	—

Country	LE staff	UK based staff
Kolkata	1	—
Madrid	1.5	—
Manila	1	—
Mexico	7	2
Moscow	3	3
Mumbai	1	—
New Delhi	2	3.5
Oslo	1	—
Paris	1.5	—
Peru	1	—
Pretoria	2	1
Rome	1	1
Seoul	2	1
Singapore	1	1
St. Petersburg	1	—
Tokyo	1	1
USA	9	2
Venezuela	1	—
Warsaw	2	1
Total	73	32.5

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 2049W, on exchange rates, which posts overseas reported a decline in the purchasing power of their local budget; and what the value in UK sterling was of the total reported decline. [243945]

David Miliband: As of November 2008 a total of 168 posts reported a decline in the purchasing power of their local budget. The total value of this reported decline was £44,176,397 (£27.9 million in April 2008 and a further £16.3 million as of October 2008).

Set out in the following table are the posts that reported a decline and the value of this decline.

Annex A

Post	£000 Total overseas price movement impact as of October 2008
Abu Dhabi	252.8
Abuja	751.2
Accra	98.0
Addis Ababa	83.4
Algiers	310.2
Amman	405.7
Amsterdam	119.4
Anguilla	12.4
Ankara	501.7
Ashgabat	52.0
Asmara	11.6
Astana	146.2
Athens	546.6
Atlanta	70.5
Auckland	15.3
Baghdad	601.5
Bahrain	61.2
Baku	304.8
Bandar Seri Begawan	55.9
Bangkok	241.0
Banjul	66.9
Basra	251.0

Annex A

Post	£000 Total overseas price movement impact as of October 2008
Beijing	940.5
Beirut	148.5
Belgrade	443.6
Belmopan	92.7
Berlin	751.9
Berne	400.3
Bogota	297.1
Bordeaux	15.1
Boston	77.2
Brasilia	564.2
Bratislava	149.5
Bridgetown	135.3
Brisbane	39.3
Brussels	1,481.4
Bucharest	170.0
Budapest	375.5
Buenos Aires	534.3
Cairo	297.0
Canberra	444.1
Cape Town	50.6
Caracas	426.7
Castries	12.7
Chennai	17.0
Chicago	105.5
Chisinau	94.6
Chongqing	79.2
Colombo	389.9
Copenhagen	40.4
Dakar	76.5
Damascus	66.6
Dar Es Salaam	111.9
Dhaka	263.2
Doha	220.2
Dubai	467.3
Dublin	416.9
Dushanbe	63.3
Dusseldorf	505.5
Ekaterinburg	61.4
Freetown	82.0
Gaborone	21.8
Geneva	557.3
Georgetown	61.2
Grand Cayman	15.3
Grand Turk	26.1
Guangzhou	338.1
Guatemala City	101.1
Hanoi	152.6
Havana	83.9
Helsinki	293.4
Ho Chi Minh City	68.5
Hong Kong	375.9
Honiara	16.0
Houston	100.6
Islamabad	176.1
Istanbul	474.2
Jakarta	189.0
Jerusalem	312.8
Johannesburg	51.3
Kabul	818.2
Kampala	110.2
Karachi	6.4
Kathmandu	10.2

Annex A

£000

Post	Total overseas price movement impact as of October 2008
Khartoum	303.6
Kiev	390.7
Kigali	53.3
Kingston	361.7
Kinshasa	211.2
Kolkata	8.2
Kuala Lumpur	165.5
Kuwait	348.0
La Paz	92.4
Lagos	1,008.9
Lille	16.7
Lilongwe	47.2
Lima	175.4
Lisbon	283.9
Ljubljana	121.0
Los Angeles	151.1
Luanda	72.3
Lusaka	204.2
Luxembourg	79.1
Lyon	13.3
Madrid	1,202.1
Manila	265.1
Maputo	131.8
Marseille	0.4
Melbourne	70.2
Mexico City	348.2
Minsk	57.1
Montevideo	205.6
Montreal	17.1
Moscow	314.3
Mumbai	24.8
Munich	131.6
Muscat	196.2
Nairobi	576.8
New Delhi	158.6
New York BCG	272.1
New York UKMIS	59.6
Nicosia	347.4
Osaka	202.5
Oslo	157.4
Ottawa	279.4
Panama City	59.6
Paris	1,615.9
Perth	32.2
Phnom Penh	136.4
Plymouth	13.2
Port Louis	92.5
Port Moresby	69.1
Port of Spain	172.8
Prague	453.9
Pretoria	169.1
Pristina	141.9
Quito	66.9
Rabat	278.1
Rangoon	171.3
Riga	145.1
Rio de Janeiro	276.4
Riyadh	543.4
Rome	1,135.6
San Francisco	89.8
San Jose	62.5
Sanaa	192.7

Annex A

£000

Post	Total overseas price movement impact as of October 2008
Santiago	199.0
Santo Domingo	29.9
Sao Paulo	357.2
Sarajevo	166.4
Shanghai	369.6
Singapore	339.5
Skopje	250.2
Sofia	266.5
St. Georges	3.4
St. Johns	4.1
St. Petersburg	217.0
Stockholm	281.4
Strasbourg	3.5
Suva	51.0
Sydney	126.5
Taipei	150.1
Tallinn	145.5
Tashkent	127.4
Tbilisi	203.1
Tehran	643.8
Tel Aviv	523.4
The Hague	331.5
Tirana	64.1
Tokyo	923.7
Toronto	108.5
Tortola	15.3
Tripoli	302.5
Tunis	125.0
Ulaanbaatar	33.5
Valletta	113.9
Vancouver	39.5
Victoria	7.5
Vienna	568.5
Vilnius	108.0
Warsaw	615.9
Washington	617.9
Wellington	49.6
Yaounde	97.5
Yerevan	107.6
Zagreb	213.8
Total OPM Uplift	44,176.4

Deportation: Terrorism

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with which countries the United Kingdom has signed memorandums of understanding to ensure that any deported terrorism suspects will not face torture or ill-treatment on their return; and with which countries similar memoranda are currently being negotiated. [262704]

Bill Rammell: We have secured framework arrangements on assurances with Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Algeria and Ethiopia.

The Government are pursuing possible arrangements with other countries, but it would not be appropriate to identify them until negotiations have been concluded. Copies of any new arrangements will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

EC Labour Policy

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what EU job centres are based in non-EU states; what the expected total projected costs of these offices is for 2009; and whether there are any plans to open more such offices. [258914]

Caroline Flint: There are no EU job centres in non-EU states, and there are no plans to open any such offices.

Elections: Monitoring

Mr. Bruce George: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department has spent on sending secondees to the OSCE in each of the last five years. [261959]

Caroline Flint: Our approximate spending on UK secondees to the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe in each of the last five years is as follows:

	£
2008-09	[1]1,337,751
2007-08	2,038,104
2006-07	2,235,012
2005-06	2,249,164
2004-05	4,498,264

[1] Up to 28 February 2009

Mr. Bruce George: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* staff of his Department and *(b)* other UK nationals are seconded to the OSCE institutions, including Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and OSCE field missions; and how many of each have been so seconded in each of the last five years. [261960]

Caroline Flint: We currently have 14 UK secondees to the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), none of whom are Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff.

Over the last five years, we have seconded the following numbers of civilian staff to the OSCE:

	Number
2007-08	26
2006-07	36
2005-06	41
2004-05	66
2003-04	68

Mr. Bruce George: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost to the Government was for election observation conducted by *(a)* OSCE, *(b)* the European Union and *(c)* the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe in each of the last 10 years. [261961]

Caroline Flint: The cost of the UK's contribution to Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) election observation over the last five years is as follows:

	£
2008-09	625,075
2007-08	657,458
2006-07	281,735
2005-06	1,086,832
2004-05	1,165,539

Details on OSCE funding prior to 2004 is held only in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office archives and is not readily available. To find this information would incur disproportionate cost.

The European Commission funds EU election assistance and observation. The UK contributes through its overall payments to the EU, which means that we cannot provide a breakdown for each of the last 10 years. Similarly, we pay for Council of Europe election observation through our assessed contributions, and as such cannot provide a detailed indication of our costs.

Gulf of Aden: Piracy

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 169W, on Yemen: piracy, how many incidents of piracy were recorded in the Gulf of Aden in *(a)* November and December 2008 and *(b)* 2009 to date. [261000]

David Miliband: The information is in the following table.

	Number
November to December 2008	29
2009 to 5 March 2009	23

India

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the Indian media coverage of his recent visit to India. [253706]

Bill Rammell: Indian media coverage of my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's recent visit was extensive and varied.

India: Christianity

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of *(a)* closures of churches in India and *(b)* the treatment of Christians in that country; what recent representations he has made to the government of India on the matter; and if he will make a statement. [259540]

Bill Rammell: We have received reports of churches in Karnataka being temporarily closed from 24 December 2008 to 4 January 2009 following allegations of forced conversions made by groups including the Hindu Jagarana Vedike. However, on 24 December 2008, the Karnataka High Court permitted some of these churches to conduct prayers during this period. The churches have now been re-opened.

An EU delegation, which included a representative from our high commission in New Delhi, visited Orissa between 9 and 12 December 2008 to assess the latest situation. They observed that Orissa remained tense and unsettled and that some of those affected by the violence had still not returned to their homes. The Orissa state authorities advised the delegation that all measures had been taken to prevent any repetition of the widespread violence that took place in 2007 and 2008.

My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, discussed the situation with Anand Sharma, Indian Minister of State for External Affairs, and Mohammed Qureshi, Chairman of the Indian Minorities Commission, when he visited New Delhi on 17 October 2008. Our high commission in New Delhi also raised the issue of religious minorities at the EU-India Human Rights Dialogue on 27 February 2009.

Iran: Baha'i Faith

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he plans to hold with the Iranian Government on the fate of the seven Baha'is who are expected shortly to be put on trial by the Iranian authorities. [261733]

Bill Rammell: We have called repeatedly for the Iranian Government to release the seven leading members of the Iranian Baha'i community. We issued a statement on 16 February 2009, backed by an EU statement on 17 February 2009, expressing our concern and calling for the Iranian Government to ensure that any trial is fair and to allow independent observation of the judicial proceedings.

The Iranian authorities are reluctant to engage with the international community, and refuse to receive formal representations on human rights issues from the EU. In this context we believe the most significant impact we can have is by ensuring that international attention remains focussed on the human rights environment in Iran. Alongside our EU partners we repeatedly express our firm opposition to all forms of discrimination and oppression, and urge Iran to respect and protect its religious minorities and free all prisoners held due to their faith or religious practice.

The statement issued on 16 February 2009 is available for viewing at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/newsroom/latest-news/?view=PressS&id=13644191

Kashmir: Diplomatic Service

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will hold discussions with the US administration on the possible appointment of a US special representative for Kashmir. [261759]

Bill Rammell: We are not aware of any plans for the US to appoint a special representative for Kashmir. There are no plans to discuss the issue.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the government of Israel and *(b)* the United Nations on the loss of unexploded Israeli ordnance in Gaza. [259542]

Bill Rammell: We are very concerned about reports that unexploded ordnance has gone missing in Gaza. We fully support the UN call for the unexploded material to be returned so that it can be safely disposed of by professionals trained to do so.

The UK has been very clear about the danger this sort of material poses. For this reason we moved quickly to fund the mines advisory group to assess and clear unexploded ordnance and have called on the Israeli government to allow mines clearance personnel entry to Gaza.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of Israel on funding for reconstruction in Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [259543]

Bill Rammell: The reconstruction of Gaza needs more than pledges of aid. The aid needs to get in; it needs to be well spent; and then it needs to be sustained. The Government continue to call on the Israeli government to improve access and to relax tough restrictions on the type of goods that are allowed across the border.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary reiterated this message during the reconstruction conference in Sharm El-Sheik on 2 March 2009 as did the International Development Secretary during his visit to Gaza on 1 March 2009. Both have raised the issue directly with Israeli Minister of Welfare and Social Services, Isaac Herzog.

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Israeli government to allow unimpeded access to Gaza for food, fuel and medical supplies; and if he will make a statement. [262702]

Bill Rammell: We are very keenly aware that the reconstruction of Gaza needs more than pledges of aid. The aid needs to get in; it needs to be well spent; and then it needs to be sustained. The Government continue to call on the Israeli Government to improve access and to relax tough restrictions on the type of goods that are allowed across the border.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary reiterated this message during the reconstruction conference in Sharm El-Sheikh on 2 March 2009 as did the International Development Secretary during his visit to Gaza on 1 March 2009. Both have raised the issue directly with Israeli Minister of Welfare and Social Services Isaac Herzog.

Palestinians: Politics and Government

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the political situation in Gaza. [260030]

Bill Rammell: We receive regular reports from the UN detailing the humanitarian situation in Gaza.

My right hon. Friend the International Development Secretary visited Gaza on 1 March 2009 and called for improved access and urged the Israelis to relax tough restrictions on the type of goods that are allowed across the border. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary reinforced this message during the reconstruction conference in Sharm el-Sheikh on 2 March 2009.

Russia: Press Freedom

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the BBC World Service on the media situation in Russia. [258893]

Caroline Flint: The BBC World Service and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have had a number of discussions about Russia at working level over the last year, including on the media environment and the BBC World Service's proposals to maximise its impact in this challenging market. I also had discussions on Russia with the BBC World Service senior management at the annual ministerial meeting with the BBC World Service on 11 December 2008.

Sri Lanka: Armed Conflict

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department has made to the government of Sri Lanka on its compliance with the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. [260163]

Bill Rammell: Our high commission in Colombo continues to lobby strongly for the UN guiding principles on internal displacement to be upheld for all the internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Sri Lanka. The Department for International Development (DfID) and other donor organisations are prioritising messages around protection, access, safety and freedom of movement of IDPs. DfID and other donors are only considering support to projects that are temporary in nature and will review their continued collective involvement after three months, in light of the Government's progress with the other key principles.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Prime Minister's special envoy has taken to facilitate peace in Sri Lanka in the last three months; how many times he has (i) corresponded and (ii) had discussions with the government of Sri Lanka on the political situation in that country in the last three months; what reports he has received of the number of people killed in the conflict in Sri Lanka (A) in total and (B) in the last three months; and if he will make a statement. [260196]

Bill Rammell: As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made clear to the House on 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 140, the recent military advances by the Sri Lankan government and the subsequent humanitarian crisis is of continuing serious concern.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has repeatedly called for a humanitarian ceasefire and has made clear our view that a political solution addressing the legitimate concerns of all communities in Sri Lanka is the only way to bring a sustainable end to the conflict.

Given our concerns, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister appointed my right hon. Friend the Member for Kilmarnock and Loudoun (Des Browne) as his special envoy for Sri Lanka on 12 February 2009. He has attended briefing meetings with Ministers, parliamentarians and officials. He has also met with international partners who share our concerns on the situation in Sri Lanka. The Sri Lankan government has yet to accept the appointment.

We are in regular contact with the government of Sri Lanka. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister wrote to President Rajapakse in January. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has spoken to both President Rajapakse and Foreign Minister Bogollagama on a number of occasions regarding the situation in Sri Lanka, most recently on 16 February 2009. Officials at our high commission maintain regular contact with the Sri Lankan government.

It is not possible to obtain accurate information on the number of casualties killed in recent fighting, due to the ongoing military hostilities and the lack of independent information emerging from northern Sri Lanka. Various reports estimate that over 70,000 people have died in the Sri Lankan conflict since it began in 1983.

Terrorism: Finance

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1413W, on terrorism: finance, how much his Department plans to spend *(a)* in each country and *(b)* on each type of project in each year from 2008-09 to 2010-11. [262404]

Bill Rammell: The £80 million allocated to tackle radicalisation and promote understanding overseas will be £20 million, £23 million and £37 million over three years from 2008-09 to 2010-11 respectively. We expec spending to be focused on south and south-east Asia, the middle-east, north and east Africa. Allocations depend both on the priority accorded to that country and the quality of project proposals submitted for funding.

Projects include work to strengthen institutions, counter grievances and increase the resilience of communities to radicalisation.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1413W, on terrorism: finance, what criteria his Department is using to allocate funding to *(a)* countries and *(b)* projects; and how he plans to assess the effectiveness of such expenditure. [262405]

Bill Rammell: Criteria for allocating funding to counter radicalisation work in specific countries are based on an assessment across Government of the threat to the UK and UK interests overseas from and in that country. Individual projects are assessed on the contribution they can make to reduce the threat. Project impact is carefully monitored through a process agreed with my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit and the National Audit Office.

Thailand: Missing Persons

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had discussions with the government of Thailand on the safety and whereabouts of the 126 people from the Rohingya ethnic group recently reported as missing by the United Nations. [260798]

Bill Rammell: We are concerned by reports of mistreatment of 'boatpeople' from the Rohingya ethnic group by the Thai authorities. We have raised the issue with the Thai Government at the highest levels on a number of occasions. Most recently, my noble Friend, the Minister for Asia, Africa and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, discussed the issue with the Thai Prime Minister during his visit to Thailand on 27 February 2009.

Working with EU partners, and in close consultation with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), we will continue to press the Thai authorities to establish the facts and hold those responsible for any wrongdoing to account.

We welcome Prime Minister Abhisit's assurances that the Thai authorities are working with the UNHCR on a regional response to the increasing number of ethnic Rohingya people fleeing Burma. To be effective, any solution must address the root causes of the problem: poor governance in Burma, discrimination, human rights abuse and extreme economic deprivation in Northern Rakhine State.

Tony Blair

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 893W, on Tony Blair, what proportion of Tony Blair's office costs as Quartet Representative the contribution to the UN Development Trust Fund represents. [260620]

Bill Rammell: The UN Development Trust Fund consists of US dollars (USD) 10.4 million and is used to fund the Office of the Quartet Representative. The UK contribution to this fund in 2007 was £400,000, which by the exchange rate of that date was equivalent to approximately USD 800,000. Therefore, the UK contribution represented approximately 7.7 per cent. of the total Trust Fund.

Western Sahara: Fisheries

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will seek the exclusion of Western Saharan waters from any new agreement to replace the EU-Morocco Fisheries Agreement when it expires. [260835]

Bill Rammell: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 382W.

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the compatibility of the EU-Morocco Fisheries Agreement with international law in respect of its application to waters off Western Sahara. [260956]

Bill Rammell: The EU-Morocco Fisheries agreement sets fishing priorities for EU Community vessels in the Moroccan fishing zone or, as defined in article 2 of the agreement, "in the waters over which the Kingdom of Morocco has sovereignty or jurisdiction". This approach is in conformity with international law and with the legal opinion of the UN as of 29 January 2002.

Morocco is the administrative authority of Western Sahara and it is the obligation of the Moroccan side to assure the full application of the Fisheries Partnership Agreement in accordance with its obligations under international law. There are no references to the Western Sahara in the agreement and this was already the case in the previous agreement between the EC and Morocco.

Western Sahara: Human Rights

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has received on human rights monitoring in *(a)* Western Sahara and *(b)* the refugee camps near Tindouf. [261378]

Bill Rammell: Our officials visited Western Sahara in February 2009 and met with representatives from across the spectrum of interested parties. During the visit civil society organisations made representations on human rights monitoring in Western Sahara and the refugee camps in Tindouf.

The UK has a strong interest in human rights issues in Western Sahara and in Tindouf and continues to monitor the situation carefully. Our official will be visiting the camps in Tindouf in March 2009.

Western Sahara: Politics and Government

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Stoke-on-Trent, North of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 240W, on Western Sahara: politics and government, whether the discussions between EU member states, the European Commission and Morocco have included a request to Morocco to comply with UN resolutions calling for a referendum on self-determination in Western Sahara. [260957]

Bill Rammell: Western Sahara was discussed during the EU-Morocco Association Council on 13 October 2008. During the meeting the EU stated its regret at the lack of progress towards settlement of the dispute over Western Sahara and reaffirmed that the next Personal Envoy of the UN Secretary General must resume and continue the work of their predecessor.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects to answer Question 243941, tabled on 10 December 2008, on the effect of exchange rate movements on the cost of subscriptions to international organisations. [258209]

David Miliband: The right hon. Member's question was answered on 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1238W.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects to answer Question 243942, tabled on 10 December 2008, on the cost of subscriptions to international organisations by his Department. [258210]

David Miliband: The right hon. Member's question was answered on 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column, 1239W. The delay in replying was due to administrative error.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects to answer Question 243846, tabled on 10 December 2008, on departmental public expenditure. [258211]

David Miliband: The right hon. Member's question was answered on 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1237W.

DEFENCE

Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what animal welfare specialists are on his Department's Animal Welfare Advisory Committee. [261519]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Professor Tim Morris BVM PhD MRCVS, Director of Equine Science and Welfare for the British Horseracing Authority, was a member of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) but has now stood down. Membership of AWAC is currently under review.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many veterans have had war pensions withdrawn in each year since 1997; and on what grounds such pensions were withdrawn. [261284]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Information is not available for the whole period mentioned, or in the form requested because reasons for cessation of pension are not routinely recorded. The principal reason for the cessation of a war disablement pension is death.

The following table provides the information that is available.

Numbers of withdrawn disablement pensions by reason and year[1]

	Total	*Death*	*Reason not recorded*	*Reduction in assessment*[2]
2003	13,630	10,560	3,050	20
2004	13,055	10,240	2,800	15
2005	12,275	9,840	2,415	20
2006	11,535	9,535	1,985	15
2007	11,050	9,295	1,745	10
January to September 2008	8,125	6,840	1,280	5

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 5 for data protection purposes. Due to rounding, figures may not add to totals.
[2] The claimant was originally awarded at a disablement percentage of 20 per cent. or more and the disablement percentage decreased to below 20 per cent. following re-assessment on review or appeal.

In addition, rounded to the nearest five, five beneficiaries under the War Pension Polish Forces Scheme have lost their pension on return to live in Poland.

Armed Forces: Qualifications

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State what levels of academic qualification were reached by recruits to the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Navy and *(c)* Air Force in 2008; and how many recruits at each level there were. [249575]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information on academic qualifications of recruits is not held in the format requested and differs between the three services. However, the available data for the Navy and Army is provided as follows: the Navy section providing a breakdown of the academic qualifications overall, while the Army section offers a summary split by officer and other ranks. Unfortunately, due to IT problems within the RAF it is not currently possible to extract the necessary data. I will write to the hon. Member with information for the RAF when this is available and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Navy

The following table reflects the numbers of each qualification held by all new recruits who joined between 1 January-31 December 2008.

		Number
Level 7	Masters	2
Level 6	Bachelors	46
Level 5	BTEC HNCs, HNDs, Foundation Degrees and HNDs	14
Level 4	CHE	1
Level 3	A levels	436
	AS Levels	282
	GNVQ Advanced	9
	BTEC National Certificate	27
	BTEC National Diploma	59
	NVQ Level 3	24
	Key Skills Level 3	30
	VCE Double award	1
	VCE A Level	1
	VCE AS Level	1
Level 2	GCSEs A-C	5250
	BTEC First Diplomas	29
	BTEC First Certificate	7
	NVQ Level 2	112
	GNVQ Intermediate	61
	Key Skills Level 2	387
Level 1	GCSE D-G	484

	Number
GNVQ Foundation	8
Key Skills Level 1	183
NVQ Level 1	49

In addition, here are the figures for the Scottish qualifications framework.

	Number
Scottish Advanced Higher	3
Scottish National Certificate	1
Scottish Higher	89
Scottish Intermediate 1	48
Scottish Intermediate 2	97
Scottish Standard A-C	590
Scottish Standard D-G	37

Recruits were also recorded as having 658; Basic Skills', 39 'GCEs', two 'CSEs' and three Modern apprenticeships.

Army

Basic Skills Levels—The Army reflects the national basic skills picture (within 1 per cent.). Roughly 45 per cent. of all soldiers joining the Army are below Level 1 (GCSE D-G) but since August 2003 80 per cent. of soldiers achieve LI literacy and numeracy within three years. Since 2002, 21,874 national literacy and numeracy qualifications have been awarded to soldiers.

Apprenticeships—65 per cent. of soldiers (4,800) embark on an apprenticeship at either Level 2 (GCSE A*-C) or 3 (A Level) either within Phase 2 training or the Field Army. The Army's achievement rate of apprenticeships is 75 per cent. compared to the national average of 60 per cent. Apprenticeships also include support for literacy and numeracy and as part of the apprenticeship soldiers gain Level 1 literacy and numeracy qualifications.

Accreditation—The majority of training within the Army is accredited to nationally recognised qualifications (March 2007 to April 2008 there were 15,451 Awards). These awards range from Level 1 qualifications through to masters degrees.

Learning credits—All soldiers are entitled to claim learning credits to support their elective educational courses which include academic and vocational qualifications.

Officers

In 2007-08, 585 cadets who commenced training at the Royal Military academy Sandhurst (RMAS) were graduate entrants this represents 82 per cent. of a total of 715 who began the standard career courses.

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to Sally Keeble:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 19 January 2009, Official Report, column 1867W, about levels of academic qualification reached by recruits joining the Army, Navy and Royal Air Force.

This data for the RAF is now available and is set out in the table below.

The information shows the total number of RAF recruits who hold specific qualifications for 2008. Many recruits will be counted more than once since they have more than one type of qualification.

Qualification Types for RAF Recruits 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008

	Number
Sec/FE qualification type	
Advanced Extension Award	2
Advanced Placement	1
Advanced Subsidiary Vocational Certificate of Education	2
Advanced Vocational Certificate of Education Double Award	4
Advanced Vocational Certificate of Education Single Award	3
Basic Skills	293
BTEC First Certificate	8
BTEC First Diploma	5
BTEC Higher National Certificate	14
BTEC Intermediate	18
BTEC National Certificate	33
BTEC National Diploma	21
Certificate in Management Studies	2
Certificate of Secondary Education	8
Certificate of Sixth Year Studies	3
City & Guilds Level 1	9
City & Guilds Level 2	4
City & Guilds Level 3	2
City & Guilds Level 4	1
Diploma	2
Diploma in Higher Education	2
Diploma in Nursery Nursing	1
Foundation Course	1
Free Standing maths	1
GCE Advanced Level	398
GCE Advanced Level 2	25
GCE Advanced Level (Special Papers)	2
GCE Advanced Subsidiary	225
GCE Advanced Supplementary Level	15
GCE Alternative Ordinary Level	2
GCE Ordinary Level	24
GCSE Double Award	72
GCSE short course	91
General Certificate of Secondary Education	576
General National Vocational Qualification	2
GNVQ Advanced	2
GNVQ Foundation	1
GNVQ Intermediate	16
Institute of Financial Services CIB Level 3 Certificate	1
International Certificate of Education	1
International GCSE	12
Key Skills Level 2	7
Key Skills Level 3	2
Modern Apprenticeship	6
New Zealand Higher School Certificate	1
NVQ Level 1	2
NVQ Level 2	16
NVQ Level 3	23
NVQ Level 4	4
Open University 60 pt course	1
Royal Society of Arts Stage 1	6
Royal Society of Arts Stage 2	3
SA Year 12 Certificate of Achievement	1
SCE Advanced Higher Grade	12
SCE Higher Grade	51
SCE Higher Still	2
SCE Intermediate 1	1
SCE Intermediate 2	9
SCE Standard Grade	49
Scottish Certificate of Education 0 Grade	7
Scottish Higher Unit	2

Qualification Types for RAF Recruits 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008

	Number
SQA Higher National Certificate	3
SQA Higher National Diploma	1
SVQ Level 3	1
West African Senior School Certificate	1
Uni/Higher/Prof Qual qual type	
Bachelor	1
Bachelor of Architecture	1
Bachelor of Architecture (Hons)	1
Bachelor of Arts	26
Bachelor of Arts (Hons)	48
Bachelor of Dental Surgery	3
Bachelor of Education	1
Bachelor of Education (Hons)	3
Bachelor of Engineering	29
Bachelor of Engineering (Hons)	19
Bachelor of Law	4
Bachelor of Law (Hons)	4
Bachelor of Medicine	10
Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	2
Bachelor of Medicine (Hons)	2
Bachelor of Music	1
Bachelor of Science	48
Bachelor of Science (Hons)	73
Bachelor of Science in Economics	3
Bachelor of Social Science	1
Bachelor of Social Science (Hons)	1
Bachelor of Surgery	1
Bachelor of Surgery (Hons)	1
Bar Vocational Course	1
BTEC Higher National Diploma	4
Certificate of Education	1
Degree	3
Diploma of Higher Education	6
Master of Arts	9
Master of Biological Studies	1
Master of Education	1
Master of Engineering	28
Master of Science	3
Masters in Chemistry	1
MBChB	2
Postgraduate Certificate in Education	5
Post Graduate Diploma	2
Post Graduate Diploma in Law	1

I will place a copy of my letter in the Library.

Armed Forces: Transsexuality

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on its policy for the recruitment and management of transsexual personnel in the Armed Forces; how many members of staff were engaged in preparing the policy; and how many meetings his Department has held with representatives of organisations representing transsexual personnel in preparing the policy. [260442]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The tri-service policy for the recruitment and management of transsexual personnel in the armed forces was prepared as part of the Department's normal business; accordingly no additional staff costs were incurred. The policy was drafted by staff in the armed forces' diversity team in consultation with personnel from the single-service equality and diversity teams, legal advisers and medical staff. Advice was also sought from a:gender, the support network for staff in Government Departments and agencies who have permanently changed their perceived gender, but no meetings were held with them.

Colombia: Drugs

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department provides *(a)* funding and *(b)* training for counter-narcotics work in Colombia. [262579]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 14 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 737W, to my hon. Friend the Member for Bridgend (Mrs. Moon).

Defence: Procurement

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated cost of the Typhoon Future Capability programme was on 31 March *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008, broken down by (i) direct resource departmental expenditure limit (DEL), (ii) indirect resource DEL and (iii) capital DEL. [257779]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The information is shown in the following table, which includes the cost of the assessment, demonstration and manufacture phases.

£ million

	31 March 2007	*31 March 2008*
Direct Resource DEL	13	18
Indirect Resource DEL	39	34
Capital DEL	436	428
Total	488	480

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of letters sent by his Department were given to *(a)* the Royal Mail and *(b)* another postal services provider for delivery in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [259960]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my predecessor gave on 23 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 683W, to the hon. Member for Tamworth (Mr. Jenkins).

Departmental Public Appointments

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what information his Department holds on the number of persons appointed to executive positions in bodies for which his Department has responsibility in the last five years who previously had careers in the banking industry. [261232]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The number of persons appointed to executive positions in the senior civil service in the Ministry of Defence since 1 April 2004 who previously had careers in the banking industry is four. Information for grades below the SCS is not held centrally and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Rail Travel

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost was of travel by train by staff in his Department in each year since 1997. [261261]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my predecessor gave to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1620W.

Departmental Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on staff surveys in each of the last five years; and which companies were contracted to carry out the surveys. [260139]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Outside contractors are employed to conduct staff surveys only where the necessary work cannot be undertaken in house and where there is a clear value for money benefit for the MOD.

Departmental Training

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Hammersmith and Fulham of 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1994W, on departmental training, what form the pre-deployment training took; where it was held; how much it cost; and which Ministers undertook it. [260560]

Mr. Kevan Jones: All current Defence Ministers have received mandatory briefings on safety and security and survival, evasion, resistance and extraction prior to visiting operational theatres. The training took place in central London. Details of the small additional costs, relating only to travel and subsistence for the trainers, are not held centrally.

European Defence Agency

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* financial and *(b)* staff resources his Department provided for the European Defence Agency in 2007-08. [262269]

Mr. Hutton: The UK financial contribution to the European Defence Agency running costs and operational budgets in 2007-08 was £1.95 million. The UK Ministry of Defence provides five members to the permanent staff of the EDA, paid from the Agency's staff budget, and seconds one further officer at national expense.

Helicopters

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many helicopters *(a)* have been repainted for desert conditions, *(b)* are awaiting a repaint for desert conditions and *(c)* have been withheld from frontline duty as a result of incorrect camouflage colours in the last 12 months. [261680]

Mr. Quentin Davies: None. UK military helicopters are not currently painted a specific colour for operating in desert conditions.

HMS Superb

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to publish the Board of Inquiry report on the incident on HMS Superb in the Red Sea in May 2008. [262634]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: It is planned to publish the Board of Inquiry report into the grounding of HMS Superb in the Red sea in May 2008 once all parallel investigations are complete.

Naval Bases

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to announce the Government's proposals for HM Naval Base Plymouth Devonport. [261809]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The scope of work carried out at the three naval bases (Portsmouth, Devonport and on the Clyde) is currently being considered as part of the Maritime Change Programme. This work is now reaching its conclusion, although we need to ensure that final decisions are fully aligned with the changes to the equipment programme announced in December 2008. An announcement on the Maritime Change Programme will be made as soon as is practicable.

Navy: Deployment

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1878W, on Navy: deployment, what the outcome of his Department's consideration of the commitment of naval resources to combat arms smuggling into Gaza has been; and if he will make a statement. [261742]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We are currently exploring a number of contingency options directed at countering arms smuggling into Gaza.

As part of this process, the UK participated in a conference on the 4-5 February in Copenhagen discussing how the international community might strengthen its efforts to help prevent the illicit flow of weapons into Gaza and agreed to meet again to explore further the measures discussed.

The UK will host the next conference in London on 13 March.

Nimrod Aircraft

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made *(a)* of the initial acquisition cost and *(b)* the through-life cost of (i) the Helix mission system and (ii) the aircraft which will carry the mission system. [260675]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The acquisition and through life costs of the three options being considered (the Nimrod R1 and the Nimrod MRA4 platforms with a bespoke mission system and the US Rivet Joint system) to meet

the Helix requirement are being assessed as part of the preparations for a main investment decision expected in 2009.

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the successor aircraft to the Nimrod R1 is planned to achieve full operational capability; and whether the R1 and its successor aircraft are planned to operate in tandem pending full operational capability of the successor aircraft. [260676]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Key dates for a successor to the Nimrod R1 system and any necessary transition arrangements between the two will be agreed at the main investment decision point which is expected in 2009.

Nuclear Weapons: Research

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the source is of the funding for the joint US/UK warhead research taking place at the Atomic Weapons Establishment Aldermaston. [261412]

Mr. Hutton: The Atomic Weapons Establishment undertakes research to ensure the continued safety, security, and performance of the United Kingdom's nuclear stockpile. Additionally, it is currently assisting the Ministry of Defence in reviewing the optimum life of the existing warhead stockpile and analysing the range of replacement options that might be available. This work, some of which is being undertaken with the United States under the 1958 Mutual Defence Agreement, will inform decisions likely to be necessary in the next Parliament on the need to refurbish or replace the current warhead. The funding for this work is met by the UK Defence budget.

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has commissioned research on the latency of post-traumatic stress disorder since 2003. [261046]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Since 2003 there has been one study commissioned by the Ministry of Defence into the latency of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) conducted by University College London. The purpose of the study was to determine the existence or otherwise of delayed-onset PTSD and its prevalence among veterans in receipt of a war pension. The findings of the study are due to be published later this year.

Public Opinion

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department and its agencies have spent on *(a)* opinion polling, *(b)* focus groups and *(c)* other forms of market research in each year since 1997; what such surveys have been commissioned; and what the purpose was of each. [261262]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, records are available of the amounts spent on polling and focus groups by the central media and communications organisation dating back to 2001-02. Earlier records are not available.

It is not possible to split out the costs of opinion polls and focus groups, the figures provided will include both these elements.

	£
2001-02	61,928
2002-03	24,639
2003-04	130,983
2004-05	79,320
2005-06	274,056
2006-07	252,983
2007-08	185,272
2008-09	†144,000

† Spend to date

These costs relate to polling carried out by our central media and communications division to establish attitudes of the public to various aspects of defence activity.

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which trade unions are recognised in his Department. [263976]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The MOD currently recognises the following trade unions and staff associations which represent staff in a wide range of grades, trades and professions.

Non-Industrial Trade Unions:

- FDA
- Prospect
- PCS (Public and Commercial Services Union)

Industrial Trade Unions:

- Unite (Amicus Section)
- Unite (Transport and General Workers Union (TGWU) Section)
- GMB (General and Municipal Boilermakers)
- UCATT (Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians)

Staff Associations:

- CPOA (Chief Police Officers Association)
- DPF (Defence Police Federation)
- ROA (Retired Officers Association)

Maritime Trade Unions:

- Nautilus UK
- RMT (National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers)

Medical Grades and Civilian Practitioners:

- BMA (British Medical Association)

Teaching Grades:

- ATL (The Association of Teachers and Lecturers)
- NAHT (National Association of Head Teachers)
- NASUWT (The National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers)
- NUT (National Union of Teachers)
- ASCL (Association of School and College Leaders

Locally Engaged Civilians Overseas:

Germany:

Ver.di (Vereinigte Dienstleistungsgewerkschaft)

Gibraltar:

Unite (TGWU Section)

Unite (TGWU Section)—ACTSS (Association of Clerical Technical and Supervisory Staff)

Prospect—GGCA (Gibraltar General and Clerical Association)

Gibraltar Services Police Staff Association

Cyprus:

SEK (Federation of Government, Military and Civil Service Workers)

PEO (Pan Cyprian Federation of Labour—Government/Military and Social Institute Servants)

PASYDY (Pancyprian Public Servants' Trade Union)

TURK-SEN (Turkish Cypriot Trade Union Federation)

SBA (Sovereign Bases Abroad) Police Association.

JUSTICE

Court of Protection

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost of an application to the Court of Protection was in the latest period for which information is available. [261954]

Bridget Prentice: The average cost of a fee paying application to the Court of Protection between 1 April 2008 and 28 February 2009 was £390.00. This average is based on all applications made whether a fee was due, was exempted, or was remitted.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much money is being held under the Court of Protection. [261955]

Bridget Prentice: Prior to October 2007, when a receiver was appointed by the then Court of Protection to manage the financial affairs of a person who lacked capacity, the court had the option of directing funds to be lodged into court. Those funds were held in the name of the Accountant General of the Supreme Court and administered by the Court Funds Office.

Since October 2007, when the Mental Capacity Act 2005 came into force, deputies appointed by the new Court of Protection have been able to choose to lodge funds similarly in court.

As at 31 December 2008 the Court Funds Office held approximately £3.2 billion of funds on behalf of Court of Protection clients.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how long the average application to the Court of Protection took to be processed in the latest period for which information is available. [261956]

Bridget Prentice: Between 1 February 2008 and 31 January 2009, the average time taken to process a court application was 14.5 weeks. This figure represents all of the orders made and dispatched by the court during this period, including cases where the court decided the matter by holding a hearing attended by the parties.

Debt Collection

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the Government plans to introduce regulations permitting bailiffs to use force against the person. [259136]

Bridget Prentice: A commitment was given during the parliamentary passage of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act—31 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 283—that no such regulations will be introduced unless consultations with all sides of the enforcement and debt advice industries has taken place and shown such powers to be desirable and necessary.

Departmental Data Protection

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether his Department uses WPA2 encryption protocol on all its wireless networks; [259820]

(2) what auditing his Department undertakes to ensure that IT security policies are being followed; and on how many occasions *(a)* IT security policies have been breached by employees and *(b)* a member of staff has been sanctioned for a breach of such policies in the last 12 months; [259821]

(3) if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's IT security hierarchy; [259822]

(4) what scanning for vulnerabilities his Department conducts of each of its IT devices; what method is used for IT device scans; and how many vulnerabilities have been detected as a result of such scans in the last 12 months; [259823]

(5) what IT security policy his Department has; what procedures are in place to ensure the policy is being followed; what his Department's policy is on encryption of data when it leaves departmental premises; and what sanctions are in place for failure to comply with this policy. [259849]

Mr. Straw: Information is a key asset to Government and its correct handling is vital to the delivery of public services and to the integrity of HMG. The Security Policy Framework, the Data Handling Report and the National Information Assurance Strategy produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic framework for protecting information that Government handle and put in place a set of mandatory measures which Departments must adhere to.

Because of the potential security threat, it would not be appropriate to comment on the specific technical measures deployed to protect the Departments IT networks.

Compliance arrangements comprise a system of self assessment, accreditation, assurance reporting, audit and review.

There have been no reported breaches of the Department's IT systems in the last 12 months. Central records show that, for this period, 41 staff have been subject to disciplinary action for breaches of IT security policy. The types of incidents involved would have included, but not exclusively, mis-use of email, internet browsing, incorrect use of passwords and login details. None of the incidents compromised the integrity of the Department's systems.

The Department's security governance arrangements are consistent with the mandatory requirements set out in the HM Government Security Policy Framework (SPF). The Permanent Secretary, as Accounting Officer has overall responsibility for all aspects of security. The Departmental Security Officer (DSO) supports the Permanent Secretary by providing advice on policy and procedure. The IT Security Officer (ITSO) supports the DSO by developing, implementing, reviewing and advising upon IT security policy. There are currently separate ITSOs working in the major business units brought together as the Ministry of Justice.

It is not in the interest of the security of the Department, or that of the public, to disclose detailed information pertaining to electronic breaches of security of Department's IT systems. Disclosing such information would enable criminals and those who would attempt to cause disruptive threats to the Department to deduce how to conduct attacks and therefore potentially enhance their capability to carry out such attacks.

Depending upon the circumstances, a range of sanctions are available for failure to comply with the policies, including disciplinary or administrative action, and in extreme or persistent cases, termination of employment/ services and, if appropriate, criminal proceedings.

Fixed Penalties: Richmond Park

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the timetable is for introducing fixed penalty notices for minor offences committed in Richmond Park. [261416]

Maria Eagle: The offences of littering, dog-fouling and illegal cycling committed in Royal Parks, such as Richmond park, are included in a proposed list of offences which could attract a penalty notice for disorder (PND) on which the Government intend to consult shortly. Regulations currently preclude the use of fixed penalties for these offences inside the Royal Parks.

The consultation period will last three months from the date of issue of the consultation paper. Subject to the response of the consultation, the Government intend to lay an order adding new offences to the PND scheme before Parliament before summer recess. New offences are added by means of secondary legislation under the affirmative resolution procedure.

Freedom of Information

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what criteria are used in deciding on whether to use a ministerial veto under section 53 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000; and if he will make a statement. [261323]

Mr. Straw: I placed in the Libraries of both Houses a copy of the criteria used in considering the first exercise of the veto when I made my statement to the House on this matter on 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 153. These criteria apply to cases engaging section 35(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The criteria are also published on the Ministry of Justice website.

Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender History Month

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender History Month in each of the last five years. [261351]

Maria Eagle: Over the past five years, the Ministry of Justice has run events for staff in different parts of the country and produced facts, posters and magazines.

In 2005, the cost was £2,350.00;

In 2006, the cost was £2,375.00;

In 2007, the cost was £5,798.00;

In 2008, the cost was £1,734.00; and

In 2009, the cost was reduced to £470.00.

National Offender Management Service: Finance

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will detail the budget for the National Offender Management Service Headquarters for 2007-08, as contained in the National Offender Management Service Strategic and Business Plans 2009-10 to 2010-11, broken down by type of expenditure. [257275]

Maria Eagle: The following table provides a breakdown of the actual expenditure for the National Offender Management Service Headquarters (NOMS HQ) for 2007-08, which is more up to date than the planning figure shown in the NOMS Strategic and Business Plan. Many of the functions delivered by NOMS during 2007-08 transferred to the new NOMS Agency as part of a restructured Ministry of Justice on 1 April 2008.

Although the item in the plan is described as NOMS HQ it is not simply the headquarters function. The following table shows that the majority of the expenditure was related to centrally managed front line services, including electronic monitoring, prisoner escort services and prison and probation property. Other services at the centre of NOMS such as the Prison and Probation Ombudsman, HM Inspector of Prisons and Public Protection are directly related to front line services.

NOMS HQ administration costs (as used in the Supply Estimates and MoJ Resource Accounts), in 2007-08 were £76 million; or £151 million if HM Prison Service's administration costs are included. This is 1.6 per cent. or 3.2 per cent. respectively of the total NOMS resource expenditure.

NOMS HQ expenditure for 2007-08 can be analysed as follows:

	£ million
Prison and Probation Property and Estates and Capacity Planning	557
Electronic Monitoring	66
Prisoner Escort Service (includes Operations Safeguard)	212
Other Programme expenditure	105
Administration Costs expenditure	76
Total resource expenditure	1,016

The £557 million expenditure on Prison and Probation Property and Estates and Capacity Planning relates to costs associated with the custodial and the probation estate including: capital charges; estate management including major maintenance; and, where applicable rent, rates, insurance and utilities.

Prisoner Escapes

Mr. Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what research he has commissioned on the motivation for prisoner absconds. [261343]

Mr. Hanson: Research was undertaken in 2004 by the Home Office research development and statistics department into the types of prisoner most at risk of absconding. Open prisons now routinely assess risk of prisoners absconding when they arrive at the prison and take a variety of other actions to help reduce absconding. The rate of absconding continues to fall and the number of absconds are at their lowest level since centralised reporting of this type of incident began in 1995.

Prisons: Mental Health Services

Mr. Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the *(a)* average and *(b)* maximum additional cost of a prisoner with mental health problems compared to a prisoner without mental health problems in 2008. [260433]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

We do not hold this information centrally.

Prisons: Organised Crime

Mr. Gardiner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* gangs recorded by the Prison Service and *(b)* other gangs have been identified in each prison in England and Wales. [261340]

Mr. Straw: The identification of 'gangs' in prison is not always straightforward given the loose nature of some affiliations and the inherent difficulties of defining a 'gang' separately from other group affiliations. NOMS is currently undertaking scoping work to provide a strengthened response to gangs.

Historically, gang-related issues have been and continue to be managed within the overall framework to manage prisons and provide a safe and decent environment. In some establishments, where gang-related issues are more problematic, governors have started work with local police forces to share information on gang members and gang affiliations. Studies have also commenced into extremist gang-related activities and HMCIP (along with HM Inspector of Constabulary and HM Inspector of Probation) has commenced a thematic review into juvenile gangs, encompassing juvenile gangs in prison and the wider community.

Prisons: Young Offenders

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the procedure is for extending the designation of a prison to include a young offender institution; [261657]

(2) which prisons have extended their designation to include a young offender institution in the last 10 years. [261659]

Mr. Hanson: Once it has been decided that the role of a prison should be changed to include the holding of young offenders, a revised designation is prepared and signed by the Director-General of the National Offender Management Service.

It would be difficult and could be attempted only at disproportionate cost to identify which prisons have extended their designation, as many designation certificates may have changed a number of times over the past 10 years. As set out in the Ministry of Justice, NOMS Agency (HM Prison Service) annual report and accounts 2007-08, there are 14 closed male young offender institutions (YOIs) and one open YOI.

Reoffenders

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders were charged with each category of violent offence whilst being supervised by the Probation Service in *(a)* Leeds, *(b)* West Yorkshire and *(c)* England and Wales in the last (i) six months, (ii) year and (iii) five years. [262297]

Mr. Hanson: The national offender management service holds information on the number of offenders charged with serious further (violent) offences whilst under probation supervision for the years 2006-07, 2007-08 and for the first six months of 2008-09. However, this does not include all types of violent offence and it is not broken down by town or city. To provide the full information requested would require manual checking of files, which could be undertaken only at disproportionate cost.

The following table contains data on the number of offenders who were charged with certain violent offences, where there was a requirement initially to notify the national offender management service, in line with the serious further offence probation circulars 06/2006 and 41/2006.

The offender management caseload statistics, which are published annually, include data on the number of offenders under probation supervision who are charged with serious further offences and whose cases proceed to review, as defined by the relevant probation circulars. Those data are updated to show outcomes, that is, convictions, acquittals, convictions for lesser offences and charges dropped.

The number of offenders convicted of a serious further offence is around 0.35 per cent. of the caseload of the probation service nationally.

Table: Notifications of serious further offence (violent offence) charges received by national offender management service for 2006-07, 2007-08 and the first 6 months of 2008-09 (below)

	2006-07		*2007-08*		*1 April 2008-30 September 2008*	
Serious violent offence description	*West Yorkshire initial notifications*	*England and Wales initial notifications*	*West Yorkshire initial notifications*	*England and Wales initial notifications*	*West Yorkshire initial notifications*	*England and Wales initial notifications*
Aggravated burglary (section 10 of the Theft Act 1968)	—	—	1	26	1	25

Table: Notifications of serious further offence (violent offence) charges received by national offender management service for 2006-07, 2007-08 and the first 6 months of 2008-09 (below)

	2006-07		2007-08		1 April 2008-30 September 2008	
Serious violent offence description	*West Yorkshire initial notifications*	*England and Wales initial notifications*	*West Yorkshire initial notifications*	*England and Wales initial notifications*	*West Yorkshire initial notifications*	*England and Wales initial notifications*
Aggravated theft	—	75	5	59	—	—
Aggravated vehicle-taking involving an accident which caused the death of any person (Section 12A of the Theft Act 1968)	—	—	—	—	—	1
Arson (section 1 of the Criminal Damage Act 1971)	1	90	3	93	2	42
Attempt to cause explosion, or making or keeping explosive with intent to endanger life or property (section 3 of the Explosive Substances Act 1883)	—	—	—	—	—	1
Attempt to commit murder or a conspiracy to commit murder	1	67	3	62	1	21
Attempting to choke, suffocate or strangle in order to commit or assist in committing an indictable offence (section 21 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861)	—	—	—	1	—	—
Burglary with intent to- (a) inflict grievous bodily harm on a person or (b) do unlawful damage to a building or anything in it. (section 9 of the Theft Act 1968)	—	—	—	11	—	17
Carrying a firearm with criminal intent (section 18 of the Firearms Act 1968)	—	—	—	2	—	1
Causing or allowing the death of a child or vulnerable adult, also called 'familial homicide' (Section 5 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Causing death by careless driving when under influence of drink or drugs (section 3A of the Road Traffic Act 1988)	—	1	—	2	—	2
Causing death by dangerous driving (section 1 of the Road Traffic Act 1988)	—	14	—	8	1	6
Destroying or damaging property other than an offence of arson (section 1(2) of the Criminal Damage Act 1971)	—	—	—	1	—	—
False imprisonment	3	56	2	60	3	35
Kidnapping	5	65	4	76	1	39
Manslaughter	2	7	1	9	—	4
Murder	6	129	9	107	4	64
Other explosives offences	—	2	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the person	2	22	—	15	—	1
Other serious violent offence	1	92	2	65	—	5
Possession of firearm at time of committing or being arrested for offence specified in Schedule 1 to that Act (section 17(2) of the Firearms Act 1968)	—	—	—	5	—	10
Possession of firearm with intent to endanger life (section 16 of the Firearms Act 1968)	—	—	—	4	4	20
Robbery or assault with intent to rob (section 8 of the Theft Act 1968)	—	1	—	11	2	18
Soliciting murder (section 4 of the Offences against the Person Act 1861)	—	—	—	—	—	1
Use of firearm to resist arrest (section 17(1) of the Firearms Act 1968)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Serious firearms offences (SFO)	4	55	6	96	—	—
Wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm (section 18 of the Offences against the Person Act 1861)	24	434	27	567	16	352
Total	49	1,110	63	1,280	35	715

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders were charged with offences whilst being supervised by the Probation Service in *(a)* Leeds, *(b)* West Yorkshire and *(c)* England and Wales in the last (i) six months, (ii) year and (iii) five years. [262298]

Mr. Hanson: The number of offenders that were charged with offences whilst being supervised by the probation service is not available. This is because the extract of the police national computer held by the Ministry of Justice does not provide comprehensive coverage of charges. Data relating to the offending of

offenders under probation supervision is based on proven reoffending—offences which have led to a conviction or a caution.

Secure Training Centres: Restraint Techniques

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many times handcuffs were used on children of each age, ethnicity and sex in each secure training centre in each month since January 2008. [261662]

Mr. Hanson: Between January and December 2008 (the latest data available), handcuffs were used in secure training centres on eight occasions, as shown in the following table.

YJB guidance to all secure training centres (STCs) is that handcuffs should only be used in exceptional circumstances, as set out in the contracts.

Any use of handcuffs must be approved by the director of the establishment. In 2008, handcuffs were used on only eight occasions: that represents a reduction of over 80 per cent. since 2006.

	2008				
	March	*June*	*July*	*October*	*December*
Hassockfield					
14, white, male	—	1	—	—	1
14, other, male	—	1	—	—	—
15, black, male	2	—	—	—	—
15, other, male	—	—	—	2	—
Oakhill					
14, white, male	—	—	1	—	—

Source:
This information has been provided by the Youth Justice Board.

Shoplifting: Fixed Penalties

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1548W, on shoplifting: fixed penalties, what length of time should have passed before a previous shoplifting offence should be taken into account when considering whether to issue a second penalty notice; and whether the ability of the offender to pay is taken into account in deciding whether to issue a second notice. [260099]

Mr. Straw: Further to the reply given on 9 February, the guidance is designed to help with the exercise of a police officer's discretion in issuing a penalty notice for disorder. No specific time period is set after which a further PND may be issued, but the guidance to forces makes clear that it will not be appropriate to do so where there has been another shoplifting offence in the recent past.

No means testing is involved in the issue of a penalty notice for disorder for a first or subsequent offence. The success of the scheme depends on the speed and simplicity of issuing a ticket. The existing guidance states that a penalty notice for disorder will not be appropriate where no satisfactory address exists for enforcement purposes, possibly because the suspect may be homeless or sleeping rough.

Television: Licensing

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions there have been for television licence fee evasion in each year since 2005. [261647]

Maria Eagle: Data showing defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for TV licence evasion in England and Wales, from 2005-07 are shown in the following table. The Criminal Statistics data for 2008 are due to be published in November 2009.

The statistics relate to defendants for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for television licence evasion, England and Wales, 2005-07[1, 2]

	Number
2005[3]	122,961
2006[3]	130,130
2007[4]	135,548

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

[3] As well as television licence evasion, these data include proceedings for summary offences under the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949 to 1967.

[4] These figures relate to the offence television licence evasion—Communications Act 2003.

Witnesses: Disabled

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he plans to take to ensure that witness statements from disabled adults who communicate using non-formal methods can be accepted in courts. [261505]

Maria Eagle: In the criminal courts statements from disabled adults who use non-formal methods of communication are treated in the same way as statements from a witness whose first language is not English.

When taking a statement from a witness who requires assistance with communication, the police interview is conducted with necessary assistance, such as an accredited deaf signer, an intermediary, or communication aids or relay interpreters where more than one form of

communication is required. The statement is written by the police officer following the witness interview and then communicated back to the witness, with any necessary assistance to check its accuracy before the witness is invited to sign it.

So far as the admissibility of the statement is concerned, this is a matter for the court to determine in each case. Written statements are admissible in certain circumstances but normally a witness would give evidence orally in court, again with any necessary assistance with communication.

In the civil courts there are no plans to change the current arrangements in respect of witness statements. Each court has a customer service officer who is able to assist users by providing services such as hearing loops, sign language or lip speakers. When required, arrangements may be made to give evidence outside the court room, for example in a hospital. The judge, parties and court staff adopt a flexible approach to allow each case to be dealt with individually according to the circumstances of the person concerned and to accommodate any special needs.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to answer question 254428, on offences relating to domestic violence, tabled on 2 February 2009. [261474]

Bridget Prentice: The question was transferred to the Solicitor-General on 4 February 2009. The Ministry of Justice's parliamentary branch wrote to the hon. Member on that day informing him of the transfer.

Youth Custody

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his Department's policy is on sharing of prison cells between under 21-year-olds and adults on remand. [261666]

Mr. Hanson: Establishments operate a policy that young adult remands (18 to 21-year-olds) do not cell share with adult remands. Remanded young adults are either placed into dedicated young offender institutes or into local 'adult' prisons. Where accommodation is within the main adult estate, young adults would not share with adults.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Meat

Mr. Oaten: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what proportion of meat produce served in the House of Commons was Freedom Food-approved in the most recent period for which figures are available. [260977]

Nick Harvey: The situation has changed little since my previous reply on 13 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 475.

In the 11 month period from April 2008 to February 2009, approximately 35 per cent. of all fresh chicken meat purchased by the House of Commons was approved under the RSPCA's Freedom Food scheme. No other fresh meat purchased over the same period was Freedom Food approved, but all fresh meat was sourced only from producers demonstrating high levels of animal welfare under other recognised quality assurance schemes, such as the Assured Food Standards Board's 'Red Tractor' scheme.

Lack of availability is the main obstacle to the House of Commons increasing the proportion of Freedom Food approved meats purchased. The Freedom Food organisation acknowledges that supply is not always available in the food service sector due to the demands of retailers and the House of Commons catering service is working closely with the organisation to try to address this issue.

Millbank Systems

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much funding the House of Commons Commission has provided to Millbank Systems in each of the last two years; and if he will make a statement. [261575]

Nick Harvey: The parliamentary service is engaged in providing greater electronic access for the public to parliamentary material and as part of this work it has developed digital access to historic *Hansard* data. Millbank Systems is the name used for the experimental web domain on which the historic *Hansard* digitisation content is being piloted. The cost of web hosting, which is funded by the Commons alone, was £2,500 in 2007-08 and will be £14,550 in 2008-09.

Security

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how much has been *(a)* budgeted and *(b)* spent since April 2008 on security in the Palace of Westminster; and if he will make a statement. [261445]

Nick Harvey: We currently have actual figures to the end of December 2008.

Between April 2008 and December 2008 the actual spend on the Palace of Westminster security contract (including armed police) was £22,417,500 against a budget of £22,989,900 (an underspend of £572,400). The budget for the full year is £30,902,400. These figures are the total costs for the Palace of Westminster, which are shared between the House of Commons and the House of Lords on a 69 per cent./31 per cent. basis.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Art Works

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which works of art from the Government Art Collection each Minister in his Department has selected for display in a private office. [259435]

Mr. Woodward: I do not have any Government Art Collection works of art on display in my office. The following artworks are on display in my hon. Friend the Member for Wythenshawe and Sale, East (Paul Goggins) private office:

"Strand on the Green" by Rodney Joseph Burn;
"Tours" by Bernard Kay;
"At the Ebb" by Tom Mackenzie;
"Three Window Views" by Christine Wilkinson;
"Battersea River-Scape" by Michael Halliday;
"Castle Rigg I" by Susan E. Jameson; and
"Castle Rigg II" by Susan E. Jameson.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what use *(a)* his Department and *(b)* service providers under contract to his Department made of (i) 0844 and 0845 telephone numbers and (ii) revenue-sharing telephone numbers for calls from members of the public; for which services such numbers are used; what prefixes are used for revenue-sharing numbers; how much revenue has accrued from revenue-sharing numbers in each of the last five years; what consideration his Department has given to introducing 03-prefixed telephone numbers for calls to all such services; and if he will make a statement. [247348]

Mr. Woodward: The Department maintains the use of one 0845 number for use by members of the public. This line allows members of the public to request information on the Mentally Disordered Offenders Victim Information Scheme.

No 0844 or 0845 telephone numbers have been used by service providers under contract to my Department.

No revenue-sharing telephone numbers for calls from members of the public have been used by my Department or service providers under contract to my Department.

There are currently no plans to introduce 03-prefixed telephone numbers for calls to my Department.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

10 Downing Street: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 978W, on 10 Downing Street: repairs and maintenance, if he will place in the Library *(a)* a copy of the non-intervention letter sent by English Heritage and *(b)* a copy of the plans that were sent to and are held by English Heritage, redacting elements which could compromise security arrangements. [258585]

Barbara Follett: I am arranging for copies of English Heritage's non-intervention letter of 7 February to Westminster city council, with regard to repairs and maintenance to 10 Downing street, to be placed in the House Libraries.

However, I am informed by officials at 10 Downing street that for security reasons, it is their policy not to release any information about the floor plans or the layout of the Downing street complex.

Arts: South West

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much Government grant funding has been provided for the arts in *(a)* Wiltshire and *(b)* the South West in each year since 1997. [259501]

Barbara Follett: Government funding for the arts is made through Arts Council England according to the arm's length principle. Decisions about which arts organisations to fund are therefore, a matter for the Arts Council.

Arts Council England advises that it provides the following grant in aid funding through its Regularly Funded Organisation programme. These figures do not include funding from the 'Grants for the Arts' initiative.

Regularly funded organisations

£

	South West	*Wiltshire*
2003-04	11,165,267	1,322,700
2004-05	12,850,250	1,472,053
2005-06	14,388,251	1,583,939
2006-07	15,143,175	1,682,272
2007-08	15,599,030	1,728,685
2008-09	16,292,393	1,775,357
2009-10	17,067,300	1,873,875
2010-11	17,544,491	1,924,469

Art Council England's predecessors, the regional arts board, were independent bodies and maintained records according to their own systems and requirements. Consequently, Arts Council England is unable to provide compatible figures for the RFO portfolio in the years before 2003-04.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what progress has been made in reducing the carbon footprint of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agency and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies in the last 12 months; [260777]

(2) what progress has been made in reducing the carbon footprints of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agency and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies. [261623]

Barbara Follett: In order to set a benchmark for carbon emissions reduction, DCMS calculated a carbon footprint for the Department; the Royal Parks Agency and 16 non-departmental public bodies in 2008. Progress is being monitored by individual organisations and will be followed up by DCMS after March 2010 once an appreciable amount of data is available. Specific operational examples of reduction carried out by DCMS are the replacement of existing gas boilers with more energy efficient models and the installation of improved energy efficient light fittings, variable speed drives (systems for controlling the rotational speed of an alternating current electric motor) and air handling units. Our sponsored bodies are making similar adjustments to their operational procedures. Further examples of their actions are available in the Pathways to Sustainability section of the Department website.

Departmental Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he plans to publish his Department's next annual corporate plan. [260783]

Andy Burnham: The Department's next annual corporate plan is due to be published in spring 2009.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport for what reasons he has decided to take up his Department's administration end year flexibility; and if he will make a statement. [258336]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Member to my written statement of 12 February 2009.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport for what reasons he has taken up his Department's end year flexibility for museums and galleries; and if he will make a statement. [258338]

Barbara Follett: I refer the hon. Member to the written statement of 12 February 2009.

National Lottery

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to his Department's most recent simplification plan, what *(a)* joint schemes and *(b)* rationalisation of programmes relating to the National Lottery have been introduced. [261616]

Barbara Follett: The information requested is as follows.

(a) Joint schemes allow National Lottery distributors to pool resources and funding powers to facilitate the delivery of a single distribution scheme and are subject to provisions outlined in the National Lottery etc. Act 1993 (as amended). This requires distributors wishing to participate in a joint scheme to apply in writing to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. Since 2006, when the first DCMS simplification plan was published, the Secretary of State has approved:

The Awards for All (England) joint scheme (authorisation) Order 2007, which extended the Awards for All (England) joint scheme to 31 March 2009; and

The Parks for People (England) joint scheme (authorisation) Order 2008, which extended the Parks for People (England) joint scheme to 31 March 2015.

(b) Lottery Distributors regularly review and rationalise all their funding programmes, taking into account policy directions issued by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, to ensure that they remain fit for purpose. Most recently, the Big Lottery Fund carried out a major public consultation, the views from which will help it to frame its funding strategy between 2009-15.

Olympic Games 2012: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport from which programme budgets his Department has transferred funds to assist with the costs of the Government Olympic Executive. [258335]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Member to my written statement of 12 February 2009.

Parks: Greater London

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department takes steps to estimate the proportion of users of *(a)* Richmond Park and *(b)* Bushy Park in each (i) ethnic group and (ii) income group. [262251]

Barbara Follett: The Royal Parks advise that they run an ongoing programme of research looking at visitor profiles in all the Royal Parks, including Bushy and Richmond. The studies include data on ethnicity and socio-economic status. In addition, an in-depth study which compared park usage to detailed profiles for the wards bordering and close to the parks was undertaken in 2006.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department has made an assessment of the impact of the proposed car park charging regime in *(a)* Richmond Park and *(b)* Bushy Park on levels of usage of each park by people from low income households; and if he will make a statement. [262252]

Barbara Follett: The Royal Parks advise that a draft impact assessment has been produced as part of the consultation exercise into possible changes to the park regulations and published on The Royal Parks' website. The consultation expressly seeks views on the level of charges. The responses will help inform the impact of introducing a charging regime.

I understand that a copy of the consultation document and draft impact assessment was sent to the hon. Member on 30 January.

TREASURY

Banks: Iceland

Jo Swinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guarantees he had received from the Icelandic authorities on the security of deposits held in Icelandic banks by UK citizens and corporations at the time that the UK agreed to support an International Monetary Fund loan to Iceland. [262716]

Ian Pearson: On 19 November the IMF announced the approval of a $2.1 billion two-year loan for Iceland to support an economic recovery programme to help Iceland restore confidence in its banking system and stabilise its currency. This includes Iceland's commitment to "ensuring the fair and equitable treatment of depositors and creditors of the intervened banks" and Iceland's recognition of its obligations to depositors under the EC Deposit Guarantee Scheme Directive.

Banks: Loans

Ms Keeble: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to ensure that banks in receipt of public money maintain their lending on mortgages and to businesses at 2007 levels; and if he will make a statement. [261649]

Ian Pearson: On 8 October 2008 the Government announced measures to support the stability of the financial system, protect ordinary savers, depositors,

businesses and borrowers, and to safeguard the interests of the taxpayer. Details are available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/press_105_08.htm

As part of their investment, the Government have agreed with the banks supported by the recapitalisation scheme a range of commitments. These include agreements to maintain, over the next three years, the availability and active marketing of competitively-priced lending to home owners and small businesses at 2007 levels.

The Government's shareholdings in the banks supported by the recapitalisation scheme will be managed on a commercial basis by an arm's length company, UK Financial Investments Ltd. (UKFI). UKFI's objective is to protect and create value for the taxpayer as shareholder with due regard to the maintenance of financial stability and to act in a way that promotes competition.

On 19 January 2009, the Government announced further measures designed to reinforce the stability of the financial system, to increase confidence and capacity to lend, and in turn to support the recovery of the economy. These build on the measures announced on 8 October last year. Further information is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/press_05_09.htm

The Government will negotiate quantified lending agreements with the banks participating in the Asset Protection Scheme and extended Credit Guarantee Scheme as announced in January this year. As the Chancellor set out on 26 February in his statement to Parliament, Royal Bank of Scotland has agreed a lending agreement with the Government.

The Government will report to Parliament annually on the delivery of these agreements.

Bradford and Bingley

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when plans to take Bradford and Bingley into public ownership were first considered by Ministers. [261409]

Ian Pearson: The Tripartite Authorities maintain contingency plans for dealing with financial institutions which contain a number of possible scenarios and have a range of possible options including public support. The plan used was formulated from these contingency plans.

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Bradford and Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc (Amendment) Order 2009, dated 19 February 2009, whether his Department plans to compensate the shareholders of Bradford and Bingley plc on the same basis as proposed in the Bradford and Bingley Compensation Scheme Order 2008. [261535]

Ian Pearson: The purpose of the Bradford and Bingley plc Transfer of Securities and Property etc. (Amendment) Order 2009 is to provide clarity in relation to the circumstances in which principal and interest on the dated subordinated notes issued by Bradford and Bingley will become due and payable.

It makes no change to the arrangements to compensate former shareholders of Bradford and Bingley as set out in the Bradford and Bingley Compensation Scheme Order 2008.

For the hon. Member's information the Treasury has also laid before Parliament a draft order entitled the Bradford and Bingley plc Compensation Scheme (Amendment) Order 2009. The effect of the amendment made by article 2 of the draft order is to ensure that the independent valuer appointed in accordance with the Bradford and Bingley plc Compensation Scheme Order 2008 must assess any compensation payable for any interferences in a person's consequential rights taking into account the amendments made by the Bradford and Bingley plc.

Transfer of Securities and Property etc. (Amendment) Order 2009. The draft Order was laid before Parliament on 25 February 2009, and is expected to be debated later this month.

Budgets

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what provision HM Revenue and Customs has made for early implementation in the 2009-10 financial year of any changes resulting from the 2009 Budget. [261597]

Mr. Timms: HMRC stands ready to implement the tax policies of the Government whenever they are announced.

Business: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many businesses in Wales have applied to defer their tax bills in each of the last six months; and how many have been *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused deferment in each month. [261933]

Mr. Timms: Under the Business Payment Support Service Since, introduced on 24 November 2008, 3,590 businesses in Wales have agreed terms with HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to defer payments of tax; 120 businesses were not able to agree terms with HMRC and 405 businesses were, as of 1 March 2009, still in negotiation with HMRC. Information is not available by month.

Information about other circumstances where HMRC may consider a proposal to defer tax is not available.

Corporate Governance of UK Banking Industry Review

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what criteria were adopted in choosing Sir David Walker to chair the review into corporate governance of British banking; whether he assessed any other candidate for the position; what remuneration Sir David will receive for his chairmanship; what powers Sir David will have to call for persons and papers in evidence; what factors he took into account in determining the review's timescale; and if he will ask Sir David to report on remuneration packages before completion of his full report. [256837]

Ian Pearson: Sir David Walker was selected to undertake a review into corporate governance of UK banks on the basis of his strong understanding of the issues of corporate governance, board practices, financial markets and relationships with institutional shareholders. As a former regulator and director, Sir David has the blend and level of experience necessary to deal with the issues of bank corporate governance in this review. Sir David will not be remunerated for conducting this review.

The Government do not intend to give Sir David any powers to call people or persons for evidential purposes.

The review time scale was decided on the basis that this is a highly complex area and one which requires a thorough and detailed investigation so as to fully examine failures in respect of corporate governance and make policy recommendations for addressing these.

The review will report jointly to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Financial Services Secretary to the Treasury with preliminary conclusions by the autumn and final recommendations by the end of the year. At this stage the Government are not intending that Sir David should report on remuneration packages outside of these time scales.

Sir David will, of course, take submissions from interested parties in carrying out the review.

Delivery Unit

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff were working in the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit at the latest date for which figures are available. [250491]

Angela Eagle: The number of staff working in the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit at the latest date when figures were available was 37.

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what use *(a)* his Department and *(b)* service providers under contract to his Department make of (i) 0844 and 0845 telephone numbers and (ii) revenue-sharing telephone numbers for calls from members of the public; for which services such numbers are used; what prefixes are used for revenue-sharing numbers; how much revenue has accrued from revenue-sharing numbers in each of the last five years; what consideration his Department has given to introducing 03-prefixed telephone numbers for calls to all such services; and if he will make a statement. [247350]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury Group does not use any revenue sharing telephone numbers.

Treasury Group organisations provide 0845 numbers for both internal and external facing services, including:

internal service desks for IT and facilities management for Treasury employees;

the OGC Service Desk, providing support on Office of Government Commerce matters to members of the public, and to private and public sector organisations;

seventeen 0845 numbers advertised on the website of the UK Debt Management Office (DMO), which are generally available for use by callers to the DMO for business continuity purposes.

The Treasury is currently reviewing its strategies for delivery of its services, which includes consideration of whether a move to using 03-prefixed telephone numbers would provide a better value service. DMO also plans to consider this in its next planning round.

Environment Protection: Industry

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what targeted assistance he is providing to green industries affected by the recession. [261640]

Angela Eagle: The Government recognise that current difficult economic circumstances may cause difficulties for companies and are monitoring the situation closely.

In the Pre-Budget Report the Government announced that they were providing £535 million of accelerated capital spending to support their environmental objectives and promote low carbon growth. This included £100 million of new funding for Warm Front which will provide a boost to the insulation and heating industries and the extension of the Renewable Obligation until 2037 to provide support and confidence to investors in renewable electricity.

Government have also taken measures to recapitalise the financial sector and also recently announced a package of support to address the cash flow, credit and capital needs of smaller businesses. Taken together these measures will provide a significant boost to companies seeking finance.

Equitable Life Assurance Society

Steve Webb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to publish all reports submitted to him by Sir John Chadwick in the course of his work on support for Equitable Life policyholders; and if he will make a statement. [253208]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 2 February 2009]:* The Government will report to the House on progress made at regular intervals, and will make Sir John Chadwick's findings public, to the extent consistent with his judgment of the possible impact of his advice on the rights of those involved in the underlying events.

EU Economic Policy

Mr. Cash: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Strategy and Growth Pact came into force; and what information his Department holds on which other EU member states *(a)* have and *(b)* have not achieved compliance with the Pact rules to date. [262188]

Ian Pearson: There is no Strategy and Growth Pact. The Stability and Growth Pact fully entered into force on 1 January 1999. The pact was then reformed in 2005. Details on countries' compliance with the pact rules can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/sg_pact_fiscal_policy/excessive_deficit9109_en.htm

Financial Services: EU Action

Mr. Cash: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the proposals in the European Commission's Communication for the Spring European Council, COM(09)114, providing for EU-wide supervision over banks and financial services will be brought forward as legislative proposals to which qualified majority voting will apply; and what the legal basis for each proposal will be. [262186]

Ian Pearson: The Commission communication does not include detail of any legislative proposal, or such a proposal's possible legal base.

Mr. Cash: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of his letter of 3 March 2009 to other EU Finance Ministers and the Commission on EU-wide supervision of financial services and banking. [262187]

Ian Pearson: I have deposited a copy of the Chancellor's letter in the Library of the House of Commons.

Local Public Services Review

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* timetable and *(b)* remit is of Sir Michael Bichard's review of local public services as part of the Government's operational efficiency programme. [262654]

Angela Eagle: Sir Michael Bichard will be reporting alongside Budget 2009 as part of the operational efficiency programme.

Sir Michael Bichard is leading the local incentives and empowerment work-strand of the operational efficiency programme, the remit of which was set out as part of the OEP launch prospectus, published in July 2008.

Members: Correspondence

John Penrose: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letters of 20 October and 18 November 2008 from the hon. Member for Weston-Super-Mare sent on behalf of a constituent, Mr. Mark Templeman. [252711]

Ian Pearson: A reply has been sent to the hon. Member.

Monetary Policy

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely effects on *(a)* the rate of inflation, *(b)* the value of sterling and *(c)* the level of bank lending of implementation of a policy of quantitative easing. [261382]

Ian Pearson: The Chancellor has authorised the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to use the Asset Purchase Facility for monetary policy purposes. The objectives of the Government's monetary policy framework remain unchanged. The Monetary Policy Committees operational target set by the Government remains at 2 per cent., as measured by the 12-month change in the Consumer Prices Index.

Motor Vehicle Industry

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to encourage the development of innovations with fewer negative effects on the environment in the automotive industry, with particular reference to companies which have been adversely affected by the recession. [261641]

Angela Eagle: New green investment is vital to ensure that the automotive industry emerges from the current downturn with the skills and technology base needed to be competitive in the global automotive market. The Government announced on 27 January an Automotive Assistance Programme (AAP). This is a temporary programme aimed at unlocking up to £2.3 billion of investment in low carbon initiatives in the UK automotive sector. On 27 February, the Government obtained European Commission clearance for the AAP and on the same day published guidance and criteria for companies wishing to apply for support under the programme. The guidance and application criteria are available on the BERR website:

www.berr.gov.uk

In addition to the AAP, an industry-wide technology roadmap plotting the pathways to ultra low carbon vehicles is being developed and finalised by the industry-led New Automotive Innovation and Growth Team. The Government are supporting the associated research agenda to accelerate their market introduction through the Technology Strategy Board-led Low Carbon Vehicle Innovation Platform, which will be delivering over £110 million of public sector support.

Further, on 15 January, the Department for Transport announced £250 million to get more ultra low-carbon vehicles on Britain's roads, helping motorists to go green by stimulating consumer uptake and helping to reduce emissions from road transport and improve local air quality. Further details of how this money will be spent will be announced later in the year.

Revenue and Customs: Cheques

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans HM Revenue and Customs has to handle cheques when the retail banking function of the Bank of England ceases. [261587]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has established the Government Banking Programme to manage the transition to new banking suppliers including the processing of cheques. As part of the programme, HMRC is also improving the processing of cheques across the HMRC estate.

Revenue and Customs: Flexible Working

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to withdraw provision for flexible working hours from staff in HM Revenue and Customs contact centres. [261356]

Mr. Timms: No.

Royal Bank of Scotland

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Financial Services Secretary declared an interest in respect of his Gartmore and Nat West pensions to the Permanent Secretary at the time of his negotiations with Royal Bank of Scotland. [262191]

Angela Eagle: In accordance with the Ministerial Code, Lord Myners declared his interests with the Permanent Secretary on appointment to ministerial office. In addition, Lord Myners has declared his interests in the House of Lords Register of Members Interests.

Smuggling: Tobacco

David Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many X-ray scanners HM Revenue and Customs used to detect instances of tobacco smuggling in each of the last five years. [261753]

Mr. Timms: HMRC has had 14 scanners in operation since 2003.

Succession: Regulation

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he intends to publish his proposals for the reform of the regulatory process for inherited estates. [249685]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 20 January 2009]:* The regulation of the inherited estates of with profits funds is a matter for the Financial Services Authority.

Tax Allowances: Electricity

Gregory Barker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reasons licensed electricity providers may not claim enhanced capital allowances. [262110]

Mr. Timms: Licensed electricity providers are generally eligible to claim enhanced capital allowances (ECAs) when they purchase plant or machinery that qualifies under any of several ECA schemes. One of those schemes, for energy-saving plant or machinery, provides ECAs for numerous technologies, including combined heat and power (CHP) systems. However, the ECA for CHP is not available to companies whose core business is electricity production in so far as they use the CHP to provide power to unknown end users. This proviso was necessary, in terms of the European Law State aid rules, to prevent any sectoral distortion of competition.

Taxation: Lorries

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what mechanism is used to determine how much each sub-group of lorries should pay in terms of vehicle excise duty and fuel duty, to ensure that the public costs engendered by their use of the road network are covered in accordance with Government policy; [261874]

(2) whether each sub-group of lorries, according to gross permitted vehicle weight and number of axles, covers the costs to the public purse which they cause in using the road network through the taxation they pay. [261875]

Angela Eagle: Diesel road fuel duty rates are paid by fuel producers rather than users and are therefore not targeted on individual vehicle types and do not distinguish between different end users.

Vehicle excise duty rates for lorries are set to reflect notional differences in the relative impact of vehicle weight on the United Kingdom's roads network. The Government do not charge vehicle excise duty on the basis of actual road infrastructure costs.

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which trade unions are recognised in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs. [262092]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the question answered on 23 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 129W.

Valuation Office: Cole Layer Trumble

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1113W, on the Valuation Office: Cole Layer Trumble, whether a copy of the agreement between Cole Layer Trumble/Tyler Technologies and the organisation which acts as the agent of the Valuation Office Agency is held by the Valuation Office Agency; and who the parties to the agreement are. [262667]

Mr. Timms: The Valuation Office Agency does not hold a copy of the agreement. The Agency's IT supplier, Capgemini, manages its own agreement with Cole Layer Trumble/Tyler Technologies. The original agreement was between Cole Layer Trumble and the VOA's previous IT supplier, EDS.

Valuation Office: Rightmove

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the Answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 24 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 964W, on the Valuation Office: Rightmove, on what date the new contract was signed between Rightmove.co.uk plc and HM Revenue and Customs, on behalf of the Valuation Office Agency; and what the *(a)* minimum and *(b)* maximum length of the new contract is. [262215]

Mr. Timms: No new contract exists—an existing contract was extended; I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 904W and 905W.

VAT

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of the reduction in value added tax to 15 per cent. in the calendar year 2009; [262313]

(2) what estimate he has made of the annual savings to be made by *(a)* households and *(b)* businesses as a result of the reduction in value added tax to 15 per cent; [262316]

(3) what estimate he has made of the annual cost to the Exchequer arising from the reduction in the rate of value added tax on household expenditure. [262315]

Mr. Timms: The estimated cost of the temporary reduction in the standard rate of VAT was published in table B5 of the 2008 pre-Budget report. No calendar year-based estimates have been made.

The cost to the Exchequer represents an equivalent saving to taxpayers in general. It is estimated tentatively that *(a)* households account for around 70 per cent. of the total, *(b)* businesses account for around 15 per cent. and *(c)* other groups account for the remaining 15 per cent.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Miss Begg: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the amount of money outstanding from tax credit overpayments made in *(a)* 2003-04 and *(b)* 2004-05 not arising from fraud on the part of the claimant. [262134]

Mr. Timms: The information is not available.

Information relating to outstanding overpayments, including that arising from fraud on the part of the claimant, of 2003-04 and 2004-05 tax credit awards is contained in part 2, table 11 of the report by the comptroller and auditor general, in the HM Revenue and Customs 2007-08 accounts. The publication is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/hmrc-dep-acct0708.pdf

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Support Agency: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will arrange for a reply to be sent to the letter of 16 December 2008 from the hon. Member for Walsall, North to the Child Support Agency regarding a constituent, reference CCDBAS12795 and RFA3696328120. [256521]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 12 February 2009]:* The administration of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is a matter for the Commissioner. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, if he will arrange for a reply to be sent to the letter of 16 December 2008 from the hon. Member for Walsall North to the Child Support Agency regarding a constituent, reference CCDBAS12795 and RFA 3696328120. [256521]

William O'Donnell, the manager of our Falkirk Clerical office, wrote to you on 10 February 2009 in reply to your correspondence of 16 December 2008. In his letter Mr O'Donnell confirms that all child maintenance payments owed to Mrs MacKenzie have now been paid.

I am sorry that Mrs MacKenzie has encountered problems in her dealings with the Agency and trust this letter clarifies the situation.

Departmental Buildings

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* display energy certificates and *(b)* advisory reports for public buildings issued in respect of each property occupied by (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies. [256053]

Jonathan Shaw: Department of Work and Pensions Display Energy Certificates are in place in 375 buildings across England and Wales and in 45 buildings across Scotland. As disproportionate costs would be incurred to provide individual copies of the certificate and the accompanying advisory report, my officials are arranging for electronic copies of these documents to be prepared and placed in the Library.

Departmental Consultants

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on consultancy fees in each of the last five years. [259779]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 27 February 2009]:* Details of spend on consultancy for each of the last five years is provided in the following table:

	£ million
2003-04	306.72
2004-05	168.37
2005-06	130.29
2006-07	162.62
2007-08	76.43

Consultancy has been used across the Department in areas such as finance transformation (introducing the largest IT based resource management system in Europe), modernising our IT infrastructure, implementing Pensions Credit and supporting Pensions Transformation.

Departmental Co-ordination: Lancashire

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the efficiency and effectiveness of operations at his Department's file store in Nelson. [261893]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 9 March 2009]:* The DWP Record Storage performance by the contractor, Capita, is rated as satisfactory to good in all areas based on the current contract Management Information and Key Performance Indicators. DWP closely monitors, evaluates and manages the contractual performance of Capita in all aspects of our requirements.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department's file store in Nelson holds Criminal Records Bureau files. [261894]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 9 March 2009]:* The Department for Work and Pensions holds no Criminal Records Bureau files at Nelson filestore.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many employees of Capita are contracted to work at his Department's file store in Nelson; what mechanisms are in place for undertaking security checks of such employees; and whether people who have a criminal record are eligible for employment at the file store. [261895]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 9 March 2009]:* Capita have 180 staff (101 permanent staff and 79 temporary staff) employed at Nelson.

Capita undertake strict security verification checks on all employed staff including:

check on two years employment history with two references;

a check is carried out to confirm eligibility to work (nationality and immigration status);

an ID check; and

home address validations.

Anyone with a disclosed current criminal record would not be deemed suitable for a role here.

DWP and Capita takes the security verification of all staff employed at Nelson extremely seriously and the procedures in place are constantly reviewed and implemented.

Departmental Data Protection

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department uses WPA2 encryption protocol on all its wireless networks. [259832]

Jonathan Shaw: Information is a key asset to Government and its correct handling is vital to the delivery of public services and to the integrity of HMG. The Security Policy Framework, the Data Handling Report and the National Information Assurance Strategy produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic framework for protecting information that Government handle and put in place a set of mandatory measures which Departments must adhere to.

Departments follow CESG guidance on the use of the Wi-Fi Protected Access 2 (WPA2) communications security protocols in order to protect wireless networks carrying protectively marked (up to RESTRICTED/IL3) traffic. The configuration and operation standards for WPA2 are set out in CESG's Infosec Manual Y, Use of WPA2 Wireless Security in Government Systems.

The DWP is fully compliant with HMG IA Standard No. 4—Communication, Security and Cryptography for the encryption of data—on all its wireless networks.

Departmental Official Engagements

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Ministers' official engagements were from 1 November to 30 November 2008. [243474]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* The information that the hon. Member has requested has been placed in the Library. These also include official and regional engagements as my regional Ministers do discuss departmental business at these events.

Employment Services: Redundancy

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many and what percentage of people having received assistance under the Jobcentre Plus rapid response service were unemployed or on out-of-work benefits *(a)* two weeks, *(b)* one month, *(c)* three months, *(d)* six months, *(e)* 12 months and *(f)* 24 months after receiving response from the rapid assistance service in (i) each year since 1997 and (ii) in each month of the last five years; [255517]

(2) how many and what percentage of people engaged with the Jobcentre Plus rapid response service have found employment *(a)* within two weeks, *(b)* within one month, *(c)* within three months, *(d)* within six months and *(e)* within 12 months in each (i) year since 1997 and (ii) month of the last five years. [255518]

Mr. McNulty: The information is not available.

Health and Safety Executive: Canvey Island

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions the Health and Safety Executive has had with *(a)* the operators of the pipelines under the site, *(b)* OIKOS, *(c)* Calor Gas and *(d)* the Emergency Planning Authority on health and safety issues arising from the proposed extension to Roscommon Way, Canvey Island. [259746]

Jonathan Shaw: The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has not consulted any of the organisations listed on the health and safety implications of the Roscommon Way extension.

HSE has had limited contact with a consultant working on behalf of Essex county council in the council's capacity as the client for the development.

HSE is unable to answer part *(b)* which is a matter for the planning authority.

Housing Benefit: North West

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants there were in *(a)* the North West and *(b)* Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council area in each month since January 2007. [261468]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 6 March 2009]:* The available information is in the following table.

Housing benefit statistics are not recorded on a monthly basis.

Total number of recipients of housing benefit February 2007 to August 2007

	February 2007	*May 2007*	*August 2007*
Great Britain	4,039,750	4,031,810	4,040,940
North West	520,300	518,430	518,590
Stockport	14,050	14,150	14,010

Notes:

1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
4. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
5. From February 2007, DWP has been collecting more detailed housing benefit/council tax benefit data electronically from local authorities. Over time this will improve the accuracy, timeliness and level of detail available in the published statistics. However, until the new data have been fully quality assured to National Statistics standards, the most recent summary statistics available are for August 2007.

Source:

Housing benefit and council tax benefit management information system quarterly 100 per cent. case load stock-count taken in February 2007 to August 2007.

Jobcentre Plus

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when his Department plans to issue guidance to Jobcentre Plus staff on how to assess whether there are reasonable grounds for believing a jobseeker's allowance claimant or applicant is a problem drug user; and to what grades of staff the guidance will be issued. [260866]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 5 March 2009]:* Guidance and training for Jobcentre Plus staff on all aspects of the new drugs regime will be developed in consultation with the Department of Health, the National Treatment Agency and staff themselves. This will include training and guidance on how and in what circumstances to make a referral to a drug treatment specialist for an assessment of problematic drug use. The guidance will be made available to staff working in offices in the Jobcentre Plus districts operating the drugs pilots in good time before the pilots begin. The guidance will primarily be targeted at personal advisers and drugs coordinators.

Jobcentre Plus: Correspondence

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when Bathgate Jobcentre Plus plans to reply to the correspondence from the hon. Member for Edinburgh, West of 19 January 2009 and 12 February 2009 on his constituent Evelyn Smith. [261498]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking when Bathgate Jobcentre Plus plans to reply to your correspondence of 19 January 2009 and 12 February 2009 about your constituent Evelyn Smith. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

I am sorry that you did not receive a reply to your correspondence within a reasonable time and would like to apologise for any inconvenience this delay caused.

Unfortunately, Bathgate Benefit Delivery Centre has no record of receiving your correspondence of 19 January, but I can confirm that the Centre Manager responded to your letter of 12 February on 4 March and attach a copy for your convenience and ease of reference.

Jobcentre Plus: North West

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people Jobcentre Plus North West has assisted into full-time employment for a period of 12 months or more in each of the last three years. [259812]

Mr. McNulty: The information is not available.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department's projections are of jobseeker's allowance in-flows *(a)* in total, *(b)* as a result of lone parents migrating from income support to jobseeker's allowance and *(c)* as a result of people moving onto jobseeker's allowance as a result of failing the work capability assessment for applying for employment support allowance in each month of each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [244141]

Mr. McNulty: The available information is in the following tables. The figures are a planning assumption only, consistent with the HM Treasury unemployment assumption, and do not represent an official departmental forecast of inflows to jobseeker's allowance.

Planning assumption for inflows to jobseeker's allowance, based on HM Treasury unemployment assumption for pre-Budget report 2008

	Total jobseeker's allowance inflows
2008-09	2,863,000
2009-10	3,620,000
2010-11	3,558,000
2011-12	3,427,000

Assumed number of inflows as a result of lone parents' migration and work capability assessment based on internal analysis carried out for departmental planning purposes

	Of which:	
Quarter ending	*Lone parent migration*	*Employment and support allowance ineligibility*
October 2008	—	—
January 2009	—	3,000
April 2009	16,000	3,000
July 2009	15,000	2,000
October 2009	20,000	2,000
January 2010	16,000	5,000
April 2010	27,000	7,000
July 2010	20,000	6,000
October 2010	14,000	6,000
January 2011	42,000	6,000
April 2011	43,000	6,000
July 2011	19,000	6,000
October 2011	17,000	6,000

Notes:
1. These inflows are consistent with the Treasury unemployment assumption. As such they do not represent an official Government forecast of inflows into jobseeker's allowance.
2. Total inflow figures give financial year totals, as the claimant count assumption quoted in the pre-Budget report is also on this basis. They are the sum of inflows from April to March, that is, the figure labelled 2008-09 represents the total inflows from April 2008 to March 2009.
3. Inflow figures as a result of the lone parent migration and work capability assessment are on a quarterly basis. They are the sum of inflows over the three months in a quarter, that is, the figure labelled April 2009 represents the total inflows in February, March, and April of 2009.
4. The figures are based on the assumption that over the next few years jobseeker's allowance claimants will flow off benefit at a lower rate than today.
5. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand (and therefore are rounded to zero if less than 500).
6. All figures relate to claimants in Great Britain.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department's projections are of jobseeker's allowance out-flows *(a)* in total and *(b)* directly into employment in each month of each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [244142]

Mr. McNulty: The available information is in the table. The Department does not make a planning assumption for the number of off-flows directly entering employment.

The figures are a planning assumption only, consistent with the HM Treasury unemployment assumption, and do not represent an official departmental forecast of exits from jobseeker's allowance.

Planning assumption for outflows from jobseeker's allowance, based on HM Treasury unemployment assumption for pre-Budget report 2008

	Total jobseeker's allowance outflows
2008-09	2,547,000
2009-10	3,288,000
2010-11	3,439,000
2011-12	3,458,000

Notes:
1. These outflows are the planning assumption which is consistent with the Treasury unemployment assumption. As such they do not represent an official forecast of outflows from jobseeker's allowance.
2. Figures given as financial year totals, as the claimant count assumption quoted in the pre-Budget report is also on this basis. They are the sum of inflows from April to March, that is, the figure labelled 2008-09 represents the total inflows from April 2008 to March 2009.
3. The figures are based on the assumption that over the next few years jobseeker's allowance claimants will flow off benefit at a lower rate than today.
4. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand (and therefore are rounded to zero if less than five hundred).
5. All figures relate to claimants in Great Britain.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will introduce measures to ensure that Jobcentre Plus offices assist jobseeker's allowance claimants in contacting other agencies for advice and support on debt and financial management; and if he will make a statement. [260720]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking if he will introduce measures to ensure that Jobcentre Plus offices assist Jobseeker's Allowance claimants in contacting other agencies for advice and support on debt and financial management; and if he will make a statement. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Signposting customers to appropriate agencies for advice and support on debt and financial management has long been part of the services provided by Jobcentre Plus personal advisers. To help our advisers with this, we have a comprehensive programme of blended learning designed to equip them with the range of knowledge and skills required to support all customers. This learning provides the adviser with the key skills needed to undertake effective work-focused interviews, identify barriers that may be making it harder for customers to find work and, where appropriate, signpost customers to relevant sources of help.

More specifically, the "Introduction to Customer Groups" learning and development module provides guidance on how to help customers with debt problems. This module is currently being updated to strengthen and reinforce the help that is available to customers from Third Sector Organisations, and is included in a range of learning routeways to ensure personal advisers and other staff are able to signpost customers to an appropriate source of help.

It is also worth mentioning that as part of a national partnership agreement, customers with debt problems are often referred to their local Citizens Advice Bureau, which is well equipped to offer advice and guidance.

I hope this information is helpful and assures you of our intent to work effectively with a range of partner organisations to make sure customers receive the best possible service.

Jobseeker's Allowance: North West

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobseeker's allowance claimants there were in *(a)* the North West, *(b)* Stockport local authority area and *(c)* Cheadle constituency in each month since January 2007. [261461]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 6 March 2009]:* The information is in the following table.

Jobseeker's allowance claimants in north-west Government office region (GOR), Stockport local authority and Cheadle parliamentary constituency: January 2007 to January 2009

	North-west GOR	Stockport local authority area	Cheadle parliamentary constituency
January 2007	120,858	3,048	497
February 2007	122,361	3,094	529
March 2007	119,759	3,072	508
April 2007	115,582	3,020	492
May 2007	111,553	2,893	473
June 2007	107,682	2,826	448
July 2007	108,979	2,889	468
August 2007	109,800	2,955	480
September 2007	107,392	2,871	469
October 2007	103,854	2,810	436
November 2007	102,174	2,803	415
December 2007	104,022	2,805	408
January 2008	110,250	2,980	455
February 2008	112,475	3,049	497
March 2008	112,122	3,018	450
April 2008	111,859	3,015	453
May 2008	110,911	3,054	442
June 2008	110,769	3,077	465
July 2008	116,193	3,279	513
August 2008	122,067	3,433	550
September 2008	124,988	3,553	598
October 2008	127,638	3,692	624
November 2008	137,636	4,117	710
December 2008	149,439	4,377	750
January 2009	164,996	5,004	898

Notes:
1. Figures are unrounded.
2. Figures include clerically held cases.

Source:
100 per cent. count of claimants of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus computer systems (including clerically held cases).

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many applications for mortgage relief schemes have been *(a)* received, *(b)* successfully processed to the point of completion and *(c)* granted in the last 12 months; [258772]

(2) how many applications for mortgage relief have been *(a)* received, *(b)* processed to the point of completion and *(c)* granted in the last 12 months. [259012]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answers 4 and 6 March 2009]:* Claims for mortgage relief can be made with jobseeker's allowance, employment and support allowance, income support and pension credit.

Information about applications for mortgage relief with pension credit could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. The available information about claims for mortgage relief with jobseeker's allowance and income support is in the following table. The Department for Work and Pensions will be publishing National Statistics on employment and support allowance in summer 2009.

Mortgage interest claims, year ending January 2009

	Number
Jobseeker's Allowance claims received	33,269
Jobseeker's Allowance claims processed	24,425

Mortgage interest claims, year ending January 2009

	Number
Income Support claims received	33,589
Income Support Mortgage claims processed	29,018
Income Support Mortgage claims awarded	19,264
Income Support Mortgage claims refused	9,754

Source:
Jobcentre Plus Management Information.

New Deal Schemes

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what progress has been made on his plans for the implementation of the flexible New Deal; [255122]

(2) whether the contracting process for the flexible New Deal has proceeded in accordance with the originally planned timetable; [255123]

(3) when the contracts will be announced for phase 1 of the flexible New Deal. [255124]

Mr. McNulty: The competition for contracts to deliver flexible new deal is under way. 124 bids were submitted and these are being evaluated.

We have notified providers of a short pause in the competition to enable us to jointly consider the impact and options to address the financial challenges in the initial phase of the contract.

The Department will retain a performance and payment regime based on outcomes, providing shortlisted bidders with the opportunity to develop innovative individually tailored solutions. Our expectation is to have a funding model based on 80 per cent. (outcome) and 20 per cent. (fee based) as originally tabled. However, in the initial phase of the contract (first 18 months), the Department will consider alternative models based on a higher service fee element.

We expect to notify bidders of results during April and contracts to be awarded by the end of May 2009.

The Government remain committed to bringing in the flexible new deal phase 1 from October 2009.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) whether any changes have been made to the original performance and funding expectations of the flexible New Deal; [255184]

(2) when phase one of the flexible new deal is planned to commence; [255185]

(3) on what date *(a)* the preferred bidders for the flexible New Deal phase 1 will be announced and *(b)* will the contract be awarded. [255186]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* The competition for contracts to deliver flexible new deal is under way. 124 bids were submitted and these are being evaluated.

We have notified providers of a short pause in the competition to enable us to jointly consider the impact and options to address the financial challenges in the initial phase of the contract.

The Department will retain a performance and payment regime based on outcomes, providing shortlisted bidders with the opportunity to develop innovative individually tailored solutions. Our expectation is to have a funding model based on 80 per cent. (outcome) and 20 per cent. (fee based) as originally tabled. However, in the initial phase of the contract (first 18-months), the Department will consider alternative models based on a higher service fee element.

We expect to notify bidders of results during April and contracts to be awarded by the end of May 2009.

The Government remains committed to bringing in the flexible new deal phase 1 from October 2009.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what deadline he has set for private sector provider bidders for the Flexible New Deal to revisit the assumptions made in their original bids, based on the revised estimate of the number of long-term unemployed. [260861]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 5 March 2009]:* Bidders should complete the revised financial schedules and provide a revised performance offer and supporting information in the form of a revised Part Six of the Invitation to Tender form. These revised documents must have been submitted by midday on Wednesday 4th March 2009.

The request for additional information will result in a change to our published timetable; we now expect to notify bidders of results during April and award contracts by the end of May 2009. We still aim to begin delivery from October although we recognise the challenge this would present to some bidders. When submitting the additional information, bidders have been asked to indicate whether these revised timings are likely to impact on their ability to begin delivery from October 2009.

Pensioners: Personal Savings

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what calculations his Department has used in deciding to attribute £1 a week as income for every £500 in savings over £6,000 when calculating the pension credit; [257377]

(2) if during the economic downturn he will temporarily abandon the practice of attributing £1 a week as income for every £500 in savings over £6,000 when calculating the pension credit; [257378]

(3) what representations he has received on the practice of attributing £1 a week as income for every £500 in savings over £6,000 when calculating pension credit. [257379]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The formula for calculating the amount of notional income assumed from capital in pension credit, known as tariff income, is not intended to represent any rate of return that could be obtained from investing capital. It provides a simple method of calculating the weekly contribution that people with capital in excess of the level of the disregard are expected to make from their resources to help meet their normal living costs.

In pension credit the first £6,000 of capital is fully disregarded (£10,000 for those in care homes). For each £500 (or part of £500) above this level we assume notional income at a rate of £1.

The vast majority of pensioners who are eligible for pension credit have savings below the level of the disregard and do not have any tariff income applied.

When income support was introduced in 1988 the rate of tariff income as set out in the legislation was £1 for every £250. With the introduction of pension credit we halved this rate to £1 for every £500, and also abolished the upper capital limit—giving more people access to support.

Pension credit, through the savings credit, is designed to specifically reward pensioners with low or modest second pensions or savings. Notional income from capital is also qualifying income for the savings credit.

As there is no link with actual market rates, the tariff income rates within the income related benefits are not adjusted when interest rates change.

The tariff income levels are kept under continual review but they can only be increased when priorities and resources allow.

Pensions: Insolvency

Ms Gisela Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the Government taking a majority stake in a company in order to prevent it from bankruptcy would be considered an insolvency event for the purpose of the Pension Protection Fund. [260979]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 5 March 2009]:* No. For the purposes of the Pension Protection Fund, an insolvency event occurs if it is an event as described within the Pensions Act 2004. Section 121 of that Act sets out when an insolvency event occurs in relation to an individual, a company or a partnership. For a company, an insolvency event may, for example, occur when an administrative receiver is appointed or the company enters administration under the provisions of the Insolvency Act 1986. It would not be an insolvency event for the Government to take a majority stake in a company.

Social Security Benefits: Telephone Services

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons his Department does not provide *(a)* an income support, *(b)* an employment support allowance, *(c)* an incapacity benefit, *(d)* a winter fuel allowance and *(e)* a jobseeker's allowance hotline for hon. Members. [253733]

Mr. McNulty: Jobcentre Plus district managers should be in regular contact with their local MPs in order to offer the personal assistance they need. Jobcentre Plus district managers have been asked to write to their MPs to reinforce this offer of help. Any hon. Member with a query about any benefits should contact the Jobcentre Plus district manager who has overall responsibility for the service to local residents. This will give hon. Members effective support for a range of different queries.

The Pension, Disability and Carers Service provide a dedicated telephone service for the express use of Members of Parliament who require information on pensioner or disability and carer-related matters.

Social Security Benefits: Wimbledon

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants for *(a)* jobseeker's allowance, *(b)* housing benefit, *(c)* incapacity benefit and *(d)* income support there were resident in Wimbledon constituency in each of the last five years; and how many of these were claiming more than one benefit in each year. [255954]

Mr. McNulty: The available information is in the following table.

Information on housing benefit is not available at parliamentary constituency level. Information on how many people were claiming more than one benefit is not available at constituency level.

Total number of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, income support and jobseeker's allowance claimants in Wimbledon parliamentary constituency over the past five years

As at August each year	Income support	Incapacity benefit/ severe disablement allowance	Jobseeker's allowance
2003	3,040	1,730	1,040
2004	1,530	1,750	920
2005	1,520	1,770	1,035
2006	1,490	1,770	820
2007	1,420	1,690	690
2008	1,410	1,630	635

Notes:
1. Data are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Data are published at https://www.nomisweb.co.uk.
3. Figures exclude clerical cases.

Sources:
1. Jobseeker's allowance—100 per cent. count of claimants of unemployment-related benefits, Jobcentre Plus Computer Systems.
2. Income support and incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance—The Department for Work and Pensions information directorate: 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Winter Fuel Payments

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people entitled to a winter fuel payment in West Chelmsford constituency are yet to receive their payment from the last round of applications. [261833]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not available.

Of the 12 million winter fuel payments made every year, the vast majority, over 95 per cent., are made automatically before Christmas based on information already held in DWP records. In these cases individuals do not need to make a claim.

However, there is a small group of people who may qualify for a winter fuel payment who need to make a claim. This is usually because they are not in receipt of a state pension or other benefit administered by the DWP. Claims for winter 2008-09 must be received by 30 March 2009. Payments are made in stages between November 2008 and May 2009 depending on when the application and supporting information is received.

In winter 2006-07, the last year for which figures are available, 20,330 people in the West Chelmsford Constituency received a winter fuel payment. We expect to make a similar number of payments this year.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions of defendants aged between 10 and 17 years there were for being drunk and disorderly in each police force area in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008. [256739]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Data showing the number of defendants proceeded against, found guilty, cautioned and issued with a penalty notice for disorder for drunk and disorderly behaviour in England and Wales for each year from 2005 to 2007, broken down by age, sex and police force area can be found in the tables placed in the House Library.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals aged over 65 years resident in each *(a)* London borough and *(b)* Government Office region were arrested or issued with a penalty notice for being drunk and disorderly in the last five years. [261526]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The numbers of persons aged 65 years and over issued with a penalty notice for disorder (PND) for being drunk and disorderly from 2004, when the scheme was implemented in all 43 police forces in England and Wales, to 2007 (latest available) are given in the table by Government office region.

PND data are collected centrally at police force area level; data for the London boroughs are not available. PND data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally. The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery.

The alcohol-related offences presented in the table are not notifiable offences and do not form part of the arrests collection.

Number of penalty notices for disorder issued to persons aged 65 and over for being drunk and disorderly[1], by Government office region, from 2004-07

Region	2004	2005	2006	2007
London	62	29	31	21
North East	2	2	8	11
North West	11	26	16	31
Yorkshire and Humberside	7	17	16	11
East Midlands	3	6	4	7
West Midlands	14	10	8	17
East of England	7	8	9	4
South East	11	18	18	17
South West	6	17	11	11
Wales	5	7	7	6

[1] Data include the following offence descriptions and corresponding statutes:
Being found drunk in a highway or other public place, whether a building or not, or on licensed premises—Licensing Act 1872, section 12;
Being guilty while drunk of disorderly behaviour—Criminal Justice Act 1967, section 91.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit

Anabolic Steroids

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* cautioned and *(b)* convicted of supplying anabolic steroids in each of the last five years; and how many of those convicted were subsequently given the maximum possible sentence. [261518]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information provided by the Ministry of Justice on the number of persons cautioned or found guilty at all courts for supplying anabolic steroids in England and Wales from 2003 to 2007 (latest available) is given in the table. Of those persons convicted none received the maximum sentence.

Cautions and court proceedings data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Number of persons cautioned or found guilty at all courts for supplying anabolic steroids[1], England and Wales, 2003-07[2,3]

	Number cautioned	Number found guilty
2003[4]	—	3
2004	2	3
2005	1	4
2006	1	—
2007	—	4

[1] Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 s.4(3): Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug—Anabolic Steroids.

[2] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis unit

Animal Experiments

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which organisations *(a)* she and *(b)* other Ministers in her Department have met to discuss the proposed revision to European Council Directive 86/609/EEC on the protection of animals used for research or other scientific purposes in the last 12 months. [260529]

Meg Hillier: The European Commission proposal for a draft directive for the protection of animals used in scientific procedures to replace directive 86/609/EEC was published in November 2008. I have met with the Animal Procedures Committee, the All Party Parliamentary FRAME Group and the BioIndustry Association to discuss aspects of the draft directive, and participated in a European Scrutiny Committee debate on the same issue. I am also due to meet representatives from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection (BUAV) later this week (12 March).

I have also received written representations about the draft directive and Home Office officials have met with

a wide and representative cross-section of relevant stakeholder groups to discuss its provisions. The Home Secretary and other Home Office Ministers have not been involved in any of these discussions.

Animal Experiments: Primates

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost of using *(a)* an F1 generation and *(b)* an F2 generation non-human primate bred for research purposes in research under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986; and on what basis her estimate is calculated. [260527]

Meg Hillier: No estimates have yet been made of the cost of using F1 and F2 generation non-human primates bred for research purposes in research under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.

We will consider these costs in preparing a partial impact assessment in respect of the European Commission's proposal for a draft directive for the protection of animals used in scientific procedures to replace Directive 86/609/EEC. We will publish the impact assessment when we consult formally on the draft directive.

Antisocial Behaviour: Fixed Penalties

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on the use of penalty notices for disorder by police community support officers; and if she will make a statement. [260067]

Mr. Coaker: None.

Asylum

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of failed asylum seekers living in the UK; and if she will make a statement. [248431]

Mr. Woolas: Since the phasing out of embarkation controls in 1994 no Government have ever been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally and that includes unsuccessful asylum seekers. By its very nature it is impossible to quantify accurately and that remains the case.

As part of the Government's 10-point plan for delivery, by 2010 over 95 per cent. of non-EEA foreign nationals will be counted in and out of the country. This is part of a sweeping programme of border protection which also includes the global roll-out of fingerprint visas, watch-list checks for all travellers before they arrive or depart from the UK and ID cards for foreign nationals.

The Government's plans, set out in "Enforcing the Deal" published on 19 June 2008, set a clear goal to target and remove the most harmful people first, working with local authorities and enforcement agencies to shut down the privileges of the UK to those breaking the rules.

Copies of this document are placed in the Library of the House. It is also available to view at:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/managingourborders/enforcementbusinessplan08_09/enforcementbusinessplan08_09.pdf?view=Binary

Asylum: Sudan

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers have signed voluntary return forms in relation to the Darfur region. [241018]

Mr. Woolas: Those who apply for the Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme (VARRP) operated on behalf of the UK Border Agency by the International Organisation for Migration sign a Declaration of Voluntary Return on application.

From January 2008 to November 2008 six people applied to return to the Darfur region of Sudan via the VARRP.

The figures provided are based on management information. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols, is subject to change and should be treated as provisional.

Asylum: Zimbabwe

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers have signed voluntary return forms in relation to Zimbabwe. [241019]

Mr. Woolas: Those who apply for the Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme (VARRP) operated on behalf of the UK Border Agency by the International Organisation for Migration sign a Declaration of Voluntary Return on application.

From January 2008 to November 2008 216 people applied to return to Zimbabwe via the VARRP.

The figures provided are based on management information. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols, is subject to change and should be treated as provisional.

Cannabis: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people *(a)* were arrested and *(b)* received on-the-spot fines for possession of cannabis in West Chelmsford constituency in each of the last five years. [261806]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, which includes the category of drug offences.

From these centrally reported data we are not able to identify specific offences from within the main offence groups.

The offence of possession of cannabis was added to the penalty notice for disorder (PND) scheme on 28 January 2009. Information on the number of PNDs issued in 2009 are due to be published in November 2010. Additionally information on notifiable offences detected in 2009-10 by means of a PND is due to be published in July 2010.

Chernobyl: Children

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the government of Belarus on measures to allow children from that country who have visas to enter the UK for the purposes of tourist visits to depart Belarus without hindrance; and if she will take steps to put in place an agreement with the government of Belarus to facilitate such visits. [261364]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 6 March 2009]:* The Government for many years facilitated the travel of Belarusian children coming to the UK from Chernobyl contaminated areas on charitable programmes. The Belarus authorities' decision last year to suspend these visits pending the signing of a bilateral agreement with the UK and other destination countries means that we no longer issue visas to children wishing to enter under these programmes.

Since last autumn there have been regular contacts with the Belarusian authorities aiming to conclude a bilateral agreement. These have been official level contacts between the British ambassador and the Department of Humanitarian Activities in Minsk, as well as between the UK Border Agency and the Belarus embassy in London and the Department of Humanitarian Activities.

This is progressing well and we hope to find a solution soon that will enable summer visits to take place.

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to conclude the draft agreement with Belarus concerning the travel for medical treatment abroad of children from that country. [261460]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 6 March 2009]:* Since the decision by the Belarus authorities to suspend visits to the UK by children from Chernobyl contaminated areas on charitable programmes, there have been regular contacts between the British ambassador and the Department of Humanitarian Activities in Minsk as well as between the UK Border Agency and the Belarus embassy in London and the Department of Humanitarian Activities in Minsk. These have focused on the negotiation of a bilateral agreement. This is progressing well and we hope to find a solution soon that will enable summer visits to take place.

Community Relations: Islam

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has had discussions with representatives of the Muslim community on the threat of terrorism committed by Somalis in the UK. [260893]

Mr. Coaker: As part of my work to protect the public and to reduce the threat to UK interests, domestically and internationally, I meet regularly with representatives from all our community and faith groups, Muslim and non-Muslim, to discuss the threat and causes of terrorism in the UK.

Crime Prevention

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to tackle *(a)* gun crime, *(b)* urban crime, *(c)* rural crime, *(d)* credit card fraud and *(e)* fraudulent and spam phishing e-mails. [260872]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 9 March 2009]:* The information is as follows:

(a) The Department has taken a range of steps to deal with gun crime including setting up the Tackling Gangs Action programme, which ran from September 2007 to March 2008. The programme saw a reduction of 51 per cent. in firearms-related injuries and a 27 per cent. drop in all recorded firearm offences across the four TGAP areas. Communities in those areas reported being more aware of police activity during TGAP and a further £1.8 million has been allocated to build on these successes.

One of the key strands in our programme of work is prevention—empowering communities to work with local agencies to take action to prevent gun crime and gang culture and offering support to parents to challenge their children's behaviour.

We have also been working with the police to develop state-of-the-art imaging technology to provide information and intelligence on firearms used in crimes.

NABIS, which went live in November, is an invaluable tool to police forces round the country. We are of course also continuing to work with SOCA and HMRC to prevent and detect illegal firearms entering the UK.

(b) and *(c)* The Government's current crime strategy 2008-2011 covers the spectrum of crime—from antisocial behaviour to serious organised crime—whether it takes place in an urban or rural setting. The strategy framework aims to: intervene early to prevent offending, take action to reduce opportunity through situational crime prevention, and ensure that there is robust enforcement and action to reduce re-offending. These are all applicable to both urban and rural settings. The strategy, which has been built upon by the Policing Green Paper and measures in the Police and Crime Reduction Bill, placed real emphasis on local flexibility to tackle local priorities to allow local partners to tailor their response to reflect local need (where issues arising from an urban or rural setting might occur).

(d) We are working closely with the credit card industry to encourage wider adoption by retailers and cardholders of new anti fraud initiatives, with particular emphasis on card not present fraud, such as verified by Visa and Mastercard SecureCode.

More generally, Government have allocated £29 million over three years to implement the recommendations of the fraud review. This includes the creation of a National Fraud Strategic Authority, launched last October; a new national lead force role for the City of London police; and a National Fraud Reporting Centre (NFRC), expected to be fully operational in 2010, which will radically streamline the way that the public report fraud to the police. The NFRC will also equip law enforcement agencies with a powerful intelligence tool and help form the basis of better prevention advice and alerts to fraud threats for business and the public.

(e) The Government introduced statutory controls in the UK on unsolicited spam e-mails under the Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003, which came into force on 11 December 2003. They provide a first line of defence against the kind of unsolicited e-mails that many people object to where they have no knowledge of the advertiser or the products being marketed. The regulations require that unsolicited spam e-mails must not be sent to an individual subscriber unless prior permission has been obtained or unless there is a previous relationship between the parties. The regulations can be enforced against an offending company or individual anywhere in the European Union (EU).

Crime Prevention: Prostitution

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has allocated to the Government's Co-ordinated Prostitution Strategy in the last 12 months; and how much of this has been allocated to the Ugly Mugs scheme. [258309]

Mr. Alan Campbell: £69,000 was allocated to initiatives arising from the prostitution strategy in 2008-09. None of this money was allocated to the Ugly Mugs scheme which was initially expanded with the support of Home Office funding but is not provided with continuous funding through the prostitution strategy.

Crime: Property

Dr. McCrea: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the national property crime rate was in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* the last four months of 2008. [259428]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The property crime rates per 1,000 population in England and Wales for 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 are given in the following table.

Figures for the last four months are yet to be published and are not available. The most recently published recorded crime statistics are up to September 2008. Figures up to December 2008 will be published on 23 April 2009.

Recorded property crime[1] rates per 1,000 population, England And Wales

	Offences recorded	*Population*	*Rate per 1,000 population*
2005-06	4,081,204	53,046,224	77
2006-07	3,952,521	53,390,244	74
2007-08	3,552,956	53,728,830	66

[1] Property crime includes burglary, offences against vehicles, other theft offences, fraud and forgery, and criminal damage.

Crimes of Violence: Victims

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to Table 1.03 of her Department's Statistical Bulletin 02/09 on homicides, firearm offences and intimate violence 2007-08, if she will break down the figures by age of victim. [258704]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested is given in the following tables.

Table A—Offences currently[1] recorded as homicide where victim is male, by apparent method of killing and age of victim: England and Wales, 1997-98 to 2007-08[2, 3]

		Year offence initially recorded as homicide[2]										
Apparent method	*Victim age (years)*	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-00*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Sharp instrument	Under 1 year	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	1	—
	1 to 4 incl.	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
	5 to 15 incl.	1	1	3	3	7	2	4	1	4	4	8
	16 to 29 incl.	52	52	66	67	78	69	82	73	75	88	88
	30 to 49 incl.	58	70	63	67	76	77	70	74	56	76	87
	50 to 69 incl.	25	23	17	16	27	23	20	31	23	19	26
	70 and over	1	5	2	2	5	11	5	9	4	2	2
Sharp instrument total		137	151	153	156	194	183	183	188	162	190	212
Blunt instrument	Under 1 year	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1 to 4 incl.	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	1	1	—	—
	5 to 15 incl.	1	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	1	2
	16 to 29 incl.	14	15	17	10	10	4	11	19	9	5	14
	30 to 49 incl.	16	11	17	22	18	15	25	16	16	18	14
	50 to 69 incl.	10	10	8	10	4	4	13	9	10	8	9
	70 and over	5	5	2	5	2	2	4	4	5	2	5
Blunt instrument total		47	41	44	50	36	26	53	49	41	34	44
Hitting, kicking, etc.	Under 1 year	2	2	—	1	3	2	1	—	—	1	2
	1 to 4 incl.	1	1	—	—	1	1	3	—	1	—	1

Table A—Offences currently[1] recorded as homicide where victim is male, by apparent method of killing and age of victim: England and Wales, 1997-98 to 2007-08[2, 3]

		Year offence initially recorded as homicide[2]										
Apparent method	*Victim age (years)*	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-00*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
	5 to 15 incl.	2	2	2	—	2	1	2	1	—	1	—
	16 to 29 incl.	16	23	19	21	25	26	23	28	23	31	34
	30 to 49 incl.	41	32	47	47	59	56	53	43	45	63	71
	50 to 69 incl.	14	11	10	14	24	21	23	29	19	21	27
	70 and over	3	5	4	3	6	5	5	10	3	9	5
	unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Hitting, kicking, etc. total		79	76	82	86	120	112	111	111	91	126	140
Strangulation	Under 1 year	1	4	2	3	2	2	2	2	1	1	1
	1 to 4 incl.	—	2	2	2	3	1	1	1	—	6	5
	5 to 15 incl.	2	5	2	9	3	—	—	1	—	—	1
	16 to 29 incl.	2	4	4	4	1	5	4	2	2	5	4
	30 to 49 incl.	2	6	2	8	5	6	7	5	5	9	4
	50 to 69 incl.	5	5	6	3	2	6	2	5	4	2	1
	70 and over	—	3	2	1	2	—	2	—	2	—	—
	unknown	—	—	—	54	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Strangulation total		12	29	20	84	18	20	18	16	14	23	16
Shooting	Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1 to 4 incl.	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	5 to 15 incl.	2	—	—	—	3	—	1	1	—	4	1
	16 to 29 incl.	14	18	23	33	47	27	27	31	24	32	27
	30 to 49 incl.	27	19	24	22	34	25	23	22	12	11	16
	50 to 69 incl.	2	5	5	6	5	3	8	1	3	6	3
	70 and over	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	2	—	—	—
	unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Shooting total		45	42	52	63	91	55	61	60	39	53	47
Explosion	Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1 to 4 incl.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	5 to 15 incl.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	16 to 29 incl.	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	11	—	—
	30 to 49 incl.	—	1	3	1	—	1	—	—	8	—	—
	50 to 69 incl.	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	1	—
	70 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Explosion total		1	2	3	2	—	2	—	2	24	1	—
Burning	Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
	1 to 4 incl.	2	2	—	1	1	1	1	1	—	2	1
	5 to 15 incl.	6	1	2	1	—	—	5	2	3	1	1
	16 to 29 incl.	1	3	—	1	2	2	4	—	3	—	3
	30 to 49 incl.	4	2	3	5	8	2	8	4	5	6	7
	50 to 69 incl.	1	4	1	1	3	1	1	7	2	3	2
	70 and over	1	1	3	—	1	1	—	2	1	2	—
Burning total		15	13	9	9	15	7	19	17	15	14	14
Drowning	Under 1 year	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
	1 to 4 incl.	1	2	—	2	—	3	1	2	1	1	—
	5 to 15 incl.	—	—	1	2	2	1	—	—	—	1	—
	16 to 29 incl.	2	—	1	2	4	—	4	3	1	—	4
	30 to 49 incl.	—	1	—	1	1	—	14	2	1	5	—

Table A—Offences currently[1] recorded as homicide where victim is male, by apparent method of killing and age of victim: England and Wales, 1997-98 to 2007-08[2, 3]

		Year offence initially recorded as homicide[2]										
Apparent method	*Victim age (years)*	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-00*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
	50 to 69 incl.	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	1
	70 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Drowning total		5	3	3	7	8	4	20	8	3	8	5
Poison or drugs	Under 1 year	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	2	—	—
	1 to 4 incl.	—	2	3	—	1	3	—	2	1	3	1
	5 to 15 incl.	—	4	3	1	—	4	1	—	—	1	1
	16 to 29 incl.	5	9	8	9	5	7	1	6	3	9	3
	30 to 49 incl.	5	6	5	6	13	9	8	7	10	9	11
	50 to 69 incl.	1	3	1	1	—	5	—	2	2	1	—
	70 and over	1	—	—	2	1	38	1	2	2	2	—
Poison or drugs total		12	24	20	21	20	67	11	19	20	25	16
Motor vehicle	Under 1 year	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1 to 4 incl.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
	5 to 15 incl.	—	—	1	1	1	1	3	—	—	—	—
	16 to 29 incl.	4	6	1	3	5	4	5	7	5	1	2
	30 to 49 incl.	6	4	5	6	7	9	4	6	2	2	5
	50 to 69 incl.	2	1	3	—	2	3	2	3	4	—	1
	70 and over	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	1
Motor vehicle total		12	11	10	11	15	18	15	17	12	3	9
Other	Under 1 year	13	11	13	18	6	8	11	7	7	4	9
	1 to 4 incl.	3	3	1	5	3	5	3	4	—	3	3
	5 to 15 incl.	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	1	1
	16 to 29 incl.	3	2	1	8	4	3	3	4	1	4	5
	30 to 49 incl.	1	2	3	6	3	7	2	6	4	7	6
	50 to 69 incl.	2	6	2	4	4	2	2	4	2	6	5
	70 and over	3	2	4	4	5	2	—	1	3	1	1
Other total		26	26	24	46	25	27	21	28	17	26	30
Not known	Under 1 year	1	2	2	—	—	—	2	1	3	3	2
	1 to 4 incl.	—	1	—	1	1	1	1	—	1	1	1
	5 to 15 incl.	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	2	3	1
	16 to 29 incl.	3	1	9	2	2	6	8	12	10	11	5
	30 to 49 incl.	2	4	11	4	4	7	17	13	21	14	7
	50 to 69 incl.	2	4	6	2	4	4	13	3	2	9	6
	70 and over	—	—	1	—	4	2	1	—	2	3	—
	unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	—
Not known total		9	12	29	9	17	20	42	39	41	44	22
Total male victims		400	430	449	544	559	541	554	554	479	547	555

— denotes nil

[1] As at 4 November 2008; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

[2] Offences are shown according to the year in which they were initially recorded as homicide, which is not necessarily the year in which the offence took place or the year in which any court decision was made.

[3] Data for 2008-09 are not yet published.

Table B—Offences currently[1] recorded as homicide where victim is female, by apparent method of killing and age of victim: England and Wales, 1997-98 to 2007-08[2, 3]

		Year offence initially recorded as homicide[2]										
Apparent method	*Victim age (years)*	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-00*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Sharp instrument	Under 1 year	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1 to 4 incl.	1	1	—	—	1	1	3	—	—	1	1

Table B—Offences currently[1] recorded as homicide where victim is female, by apparent method of killing and age of victim: England and Wales, 1997-98 to 2007-08[2]

Year offence initially recorded as homicide[3]

Apparent method	Victim age (years)[4]	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
	5 to 15 incl.	4	—	2	1	—	2	2	—	—	1	2
	16 to 29 incl.	18	11	17	16	21	22	20	22	18	24	14
	30 to 49 incl.	31	24	23	29	28	31	25	30	27	38	27
	50 to 69 incl.	6	7	13	7	11	16	6	15	9	14	12
	70 plus	5	7	4	5	6	11	3	5	3	1	2
Sharp instrument total		65	50	60	59	67	83	59	72	57	78	58
Blunt instrument	Under 1 year	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1 to 4 incl.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	5 to 15 incl.	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	16 to 29 incl.	3	7	6	4	5	4	4	6	7	2	3
	30 to 49 incl.	7	7	8	17	12	8	5	2	5	3	7
	50 to 69 incl.	7	4	4	2	5	3	5	5	4	1	4
	70 plus	3	5	5	3	2	7	6	4	3	5	8
Blunt instrument total		21	24	26	27	24	22	20	17	19	11	22
Hitting, kicking, etc.	Under 1 year	—	2	1	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	4
	1 to 4 incl.	3	—	—	1	—	2	1	1	—	1	1
	5 to 15 incl.	—	—	—	2	1	2	—	1	1	1	—
	16 to 29 incl.	7	3	3	3	6	2	5	3	7	3	6
	30 to 49 incl.	5	5	6	3	6	12	9	3	7	4	6
	50 to 69 incl.	4	3	—	1	4	7	5	3	1	4	2
	70 plus	5	—	3	6	8	12	5	4	3	2	4
Hitting, kicking, etc. total		24	13	13	16	25	38	26	16	20	15	23
Strangulation	Under 1 year	5	2	—	4	3	7	1	2	1	—	1
	1 to 4 incl.	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2	—	—
	5 to 15 incl.	1	3	2	3	—	4	2	5	2	2	—
	16 to 29 incl.	19	13	10	23	16	13	11	13	9	12	11
	30 to 49 incl.	14	12	19	18	26	14	18	17	16	9	15
	50 to 69 incl.	3	10	4	6	6	2	11	3	7	6	9
	70 plus	7	9	1	4	9	7	5	8	6	2	5
	unknown	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Strangulation total		50	49	36	63	60	47	49	48	43	31	41
Shooting	Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1 to 4 incl.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	5 to 15 incl.	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	1	—	1	1
	16 to 29 incl.	1	2	2	2	—	9	—	5	4	—	3
	30 to 49 incl.	2	2	5	3	2	6	3	1	5	3	
	50 to 69 incl.	3	—	1	1	2	3	2	1	1	1	
	70 plus	1	—	1	2	1	—	—	2	—	1	2
	unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Shooting total		7	4	9	9	6	20	6	10	11	6	6
Explosion	Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1 to 4 incl.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	5 to 15 incl.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	16 to 29 incl.	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	13	—	—
	30 to 49 incl.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	—	—

Table B—Offences currently[1] recorded as homicide where victim is female, by apparent method of killing and age of victim: England and Wales, 1997-98 to 2007-08[2, 3]

		Year offence initially recorded as homicide[2]										
Apparent method	*Victim age (years)*	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-00*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
	50 to 69 incl.	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	—	—
	70 plus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Explosion total		—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	29	—	—
Burning	Under 1 year	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
	1 to 4 incl.	2	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	1
	5 to 15 incl.	2	3	1	—	3	7	1	1	2	4	2
	16 to 29 incl.	3	5	1	3	2	1	2	1	5	2	4
	30 to 49 incl.	5	3	1	3	4	3	1	7	4	6	3
	50 to 69 incl.	1	2	—	2	1	1	4	3	1	—	—
	70 plus	—	3	1	—	3	1	1	1	—	2	3
Burning total		13	19	4	9	14	15	9	15	12	15	13
Drowning	Under 1 year	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1 to 4 incl.	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	1
	5 to 15 incl.	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
	16 to 29 incl.	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
	30 to 49 incl.	—	—	2	1	1	—	2	2	—	1	—
	50 to 69 incl.	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
	70 plus	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Drowning total		1	3	3	2	4	3	4	4	1	1	1
Poison or drugs	Under 1 year	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
	1 to 4 incl.	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	1
	5 to 15 incl.	—	3	1	2	—	1	1	—	2	—	—
	16 to 29 incl.	—	2	1	1	5	2	2	—	1	—	—
	30 to 49 incl.	2	2	3	3	3	1	1	3	2	—	3
	50 to 69 incl.	1	7	4	—	3	23	1	2	1	—	—
	70 plus	1	8	23	4	4	108	3	2	5	1	—
Poison or drugs total		5	23	33	12	15	135	9	10	11	1	4
Motor vehicle	Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1 to 4 incl.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
	5 to 15 incl.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	16 to 29 incl.	1	2	—	3	2	—	3	1	—	—	1
	30 to 49 incl.	—	—	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	2	2
	50 to 69 incl.	—	1	—	1	1	1	1	2	—	—	—
	70 plus	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
	unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Motor vehicle total		1	3	1	5	4	3	7	5	2	3	3
Other	Under 1 year	2	9	6	16	2	8	3	5	4	5	3
	1 to 4 incl.	1	—	1	2	2	6	2	4	—	3	2
	5 to 15 incl.	2	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	3
	16 to 29 incl.	1	—	—	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	3
	30 to 49 incl.	1	3	1	1	2	—	1	—	—	3	3
	50 to 69 incl.	2	2	3	—	2	2	1	—	—	1	3
	70 plus	3	3	4	—	6	3	3	3	3	2	3
Other total		12	17	16	22	15	21	15	13	8	15	22
Not known	Under 1 year	—	2	3	—	—	2	2	2	3	1	2
	1 to 4 incl.	1	2	2	—	—	—	1	1	1	3	1

Table B—Offences currently[1] recorded as homicide where victim is female, by apparent method of killing and age of victim: England and Wales, 1997-98 to 2007-08[2, 3]

		Year offence initially recorded as homicide[2]										
Apparent method	*Victim age (years)*	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-00*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
	5 to 15 incl.	1	1	—	—	2	5	1	1	2	1	—
	16 to 29 incl.	3	2	8	2	4	5	5	7	10	8	6
	30 to 49 incl.	4	2	7	3	7	7	5	6	10	4	3
	50 to 69 incl.	1	1	2	—	1	2	3	—	1	1	3
	70 plus	—	1	2	—	—	4	1	2	3	—	—
	unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Not known total		10	11	24	5	14	25	18	20	31	18	15
Total female victims		209	216	226	229	249	412	222	230	244	195	208

— denotes nil

[1] As at 4 November 2008; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

[2] Offences are shown according to the year in which they were initially recorded as homicide, which is not necessarily the year in which the offence took place or the year in which any court decision was made.

[3] Data for 2008-09 are not yet published.

Table C—Offences currently[1] recorded as homicide by apparent method of killing and age of victim: England and Wales, 1997-98 to 2007-08[2, 3]

		Year offence initially recorded as homicide[2]										
Apparent method	*Victim age (years)*	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-00*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Sharp instrument	Under 1 year	—	—	2	1	—	1	2	—	—	1	—
	1 to 4 incl.	1	1	1	1	2	1	3	—	—	1	2
	5 to 15 incl.	5	1	5	4	7	4	6	1	4	5	10
	16 to 29 incl.	70	63	83	83	99	91	102	95	93	112	102
	30 to 49 incl.	89	94	86	96	104	108	95	104	83	114	114
	50 to 69 incl.	31	30	30	23	38	39	26	46	32	33	38
	70 plus	6	12	6	7	11	22	8	14	7	3	4
Sharp instrument total		202	201	213	215	261	266	242	260	219	269	270
Blunt instrument	Under 1 year	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1 to 4 incl.	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	1	1	—	—
	5 to 15 incl.	1	—	2	3	—	1	—	—	—	1	2
	16 to 29 incl.	17	22	23	14	15	8	15	25	16	7	17
	30 to 49 incl.	23	18	25	39	30	23	30	18	21	21	21
	50 to 69 incl.	17	14	12	12	9	7	18	14	14	9	13
	70 plus	8	10	7	8	4	9	10	8	8	7	13
Blunt instrument total		68	65	70	77	60	48	73	66	60	45	66
Hitting, kicking, etc.	Under 1 year	2	4	1	1	3	3	2	1	1	1	6
	1 to 4 incl.	4	1	—	1	1	3	4	1	1	1	2
	5 to 15 incl.	2	2	2	2	3	3	2	2	1	2	—
	16 to 29 incl.	23	26	22	24	31	28	28	31	30	34	40
	30 to 49 incl.	46	37	53	50	65	68	62	46	52	67	77
	50 to 69 incl.	18	14	10	15	28	28	28	32	20	25	29
	70 plus	8	5	7	9	14	17	10	14	6	11	9
	unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Hitting, kicking, etc. total		103	89	95	102	145	150	137	127	111	141	163
Strangulation[4]	Under 1 year	6	6	2	7	5	9	3	4	2	1	2
	1 to 4 incl.	1	2	2	3	3	1	2	1	2	6	5
	5 to 15 incl.	3	8	4	12	3	4	2	6	2	2	1
	16 to 29 incl.	21	17	14	27	17	18	15	15	11	17	15
	30 to 49 incl.	16	18	21	26	31	20	25	22	21	18	19
	50 to 69 incl.	8	15	10	9	8	8	13	9	11	8	10

Table C—Offences currently[1] recorded as homicide by apparent method of killing and age of victim: England and Wales, 1997-98 to 2007-08[2, 3]

		Year offence initially recorded as homicide[1]										
Apparent method	*Victim age (years)*	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-00*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
	70 plus	7	12	3	5	11	7	7	8	8	2	5
	unknown	—	—	—	58	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Strangulation total		62	78	56	147	78	67	67	64	57	54	57
Shooting[4]	Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1 to 4 incl.	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	5 to 15 incl.	2	—	—	1	4	2	2	2	—	5	2
	16 to 29 incl.	15	20	25	35	47	36	27	36	28	32	30
	30 to 49 incl.	29	21	29	25	36	31	26	23	17	14	16
	50 to 69 incl.	5	5	6	7	7	6	10	2	4	7	3
	70 plus	1	—	1	3	2	—	2	4	—	1	2
	unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—
Shooting total		52	46	61	72	97	75	67	70	50	59	53
Explosion[4]	Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1 to 4 incl.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	5 to 15 incl.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	16 to 29 incl.	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	24	—	—
	30 to 49 incl.	—	1	3	1	—	1	—	—	23	—	—
	50 to 69 incl.	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	8	1	—
	70 plus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Explosion total		1	2	4	2	1	2	—	2	53	1	—
Burning	Under 1 year	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	1	—	—
	1 to 4 incl.	4	4	—	1	2	2	1	1	—	3	2
	5 to 15 incl.	8	4	3	1	3	7	6	3	5	5	3
	16 to 29 incl.	4	8	1	4	4	3	6	1	8	2	7
	30 to 49 incl.	9	5	4	8	12	5	9	11	9	12	10
	50 to 69 incl.	2	6	1	3	4	2	5	12	3	3	2
	70 plus	1	4	4	—	4	2	1	3	1	4	3
Burning total		28	32	13	18	29	22	28	32	27	29	27
Drowning[4]	Under 1 year	2	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
	1 to 4 incl.	1	3	—	2	1	4	2	2	1	1	1
	5 to 15 incl.	—	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	—	1	—
	16 to 29 incl.	2	—	1	2	5	—	4	4	2	—	4
	30 to 49 incl.	—	1	2	2	2	—	16	4	1	6	—
	50 to 69 incl.	1	—	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	1
	70 plus	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Drowning total		6	6	6	9	12	7	26	12	4	9	6
Poison or drugs[4]	Under 1 year	1	—	—	2	—	1	1	1	2	—	—
	1 to 4 incl.	—	3	4	2	1	3	—	4	1	3	2
	5 to 15 incl.	—	7	4	3	—	5	2	—	2	1	1
	16 to 29 incl.	5	11	9	10	10	9	3	6	4	9	3
	30 to 49 incl.	7	8	8	9	16	10	9	10	12	9	14
	50 to 69 incl.	2	10	5	1	3	28	1	4	3	1	—
	70 plus	2	8	23	6	5	146	4	4	7	3	—
Poison or drugs total		17	47	53	33	35	202	20	29	31	26	20
Motor vehicle[4]	Under 1 year	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1 to 4 incl.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—

Table C - Offences currently recorded as homicide by apparent method of killing and age of victim: England and Wales, 1997-98 to 2007-08[1, 2]

		Year offence initially recorded as homicide[2]										
Apparent method	*Victim age (years)*	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-00*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
	5 to 15 incl.	—	—	1	1	1	1	3	—	—	—	—
	16 to 29 incl.	5	8	1	6	7	4	8	8	5	1	3
	30 to 49 incl.	6	4	6	7	8	10	6	8	3	4	7
	50 to 69 incl.	2	2	3	1	3	4	3	5	4	—	1
	70 plus	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	1	—	1
	unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Motor vehicle total		13	14	11	16	19	21	22	22	14	6	12
Other	Under 1 year	15	20	19	34	8	16	14	12	11	9	12
	1 to 4 incl.	4	3	2	7	5	11	5	8	—	6	5
	5 to 15 incl.	3	—	1	1	—	1	1	2	—	1	4
	16 to 29 incl.	4	2	1	11	5	4	5	5	2	5	8
	30 to 49 incl.	2	5	4	7	5	7	3	6	4	10	9
	50 to 69 incl.	4	8	5	4	6	4	3	4	2	7	8
	70 plus	6	5	8	4	11	5	5	4	6	3	6
Other total		38	43	40	68	40	48	36	41	25	41	52
Not known	Under 1 year	1	4	5	—	—	2	4	3	6	4	4
	1 to 4 incl.	1	3	2	1	1	1	2	1	2	4	2
	5 to 15 incl.	2	1	—	—	4	5	1	2	4	4	1
	16 to 29 incl.	6	3	17	4	6	11	13	19	20	19	11
	30 to 49 incl.	6	6	18	7	11	14	22	19	31	18	10
	50 to 69 incl.	3	5	8	2	5	6	16	3	3	10	9
	70 plus	—	1	3	—	4	6	2	2	5	3	—
	unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	1	—	—
Not known total		19	23	53	14	31	45	60	59	72	62	37
Total all victims		669	646	675	773	888	953	776	784	723	742	763

— denotes nil

[1] As at 4 November 2008, figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

[2] Offences are shown according to the year in which they were initially recorded as homicide, which is not necessarily the year in which the offence took place or the year in which any court decision was made.

[3] Data for 2008-09 are not yet published.

[4] Including asphyxiation. Year 2000-01 includes 58 Chinese nationals who collectively suffocated in a lorry en route into the UK.

[5] These figures include shooting by crossbows, but excludes cases where the firearm was used as a blunt instrument.

[6] Year 2005-06 includes 52 victims of the 7 July London bombings.

[7] Year 2003-04 includes 20 cockle pickers who drowned in Morecambe Bay.

[8] Year 2002-03 includes 172 victims of Dr. Shipman.

[9] Excluding death by careless/dangerous driving and aggravated vehicle taking.

Departmental Correspondence

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many letters from members of the public to her Department had not been replied to after more than *(a)* one month and *(b)* three months at the latest date for which figures are available. [251612]

Mr. Woolas: On 27 January 2008, 28 letters from members of the public had been awaiting a reply for more than one month. A further 24 public letters had been awaiting a reply for more than three months.

Departmental Public Appointments

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department holds on the number of persons appointed to executive positions in bodies for which her Department has responsibility in the last five years who previously had careers in the banking industry. [261235]

Mr. Woolas: The information is not held centrally and to obtain it would incur disproportionate costs.

Departmental Rail Travel

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to her Department was of travel by train by its staff in each year since 1997. [261183]

Mr. Woolas: The Department's expenditure on train travel is set out in the following table.

	Home Office	£000 Identity and Passport Service
1996-97	154	[1]—
1997-98	385	[1]—
1998-99	498	[1]—
1999-2000	804	[1]—
2000-01	1,248	[1]—
2001-02	1,681	[1]—
2002-03	2,180	398
2003-04	1,961	453
2004-05	4,273	804
2005-06	6,161	1,237
2006-07	9,262	1,612
2007-08	5,268	1,741

[1] Not known.

The Home Office figures for 1996-97 to 2006-07 include expenditure for the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and the Office of Criminal Justice and Reform (OCJR), which transferred to Ministry of Justice on 1 April 2007: these figures could not be deducted from the Home Office total without incurring disproportionate cost.

Of the Department's agencies, expenditure on rail travel in the Identity and Passport Service could not be identified separately until February 2002. The information for the years 1996-97 to 2001-02 could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost. Criminal Records Bureau cannot identify rail expenditure without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's policy is on holding departmental away days outside her Department's buildings. [262027]

Mr. Woolas: There is no central policy on holding departmental away days outside the Department's buildings.

Departmental Translation Services

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many language translators are employed in each of her Department's Executive agencies; and what the cost of translating services provided by such people was in the latest period for which information is available. [257154]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office headquarters (HQ) and the UK Border Agency (UKBA) do not employ any language translators or interpreters; translators are hired as and when a specific need exists. It is not possible to provide the cost of the translating services used by HQ and UKBA without incurring a disproportionate cost.

The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) employ four examiners who, among other things, deal with applications and inquiries submitted in Welsh. The salary scale for examiners ranges from £15,977 to £17,459. IPS also paid £2,785 for external translating services in the 2008-09 financial year up to the end of December 2008.

The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) employs one Welsh translator at executive officer grade; the salary scale for an executive office in CRB is £19,829 to £24,789.

Deposited Papers

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy when placing material in the Library in response to a parliamentary question to supply a copy of the material to the hon. Member who tabled the question; and if she will make a statement. [247975]

Mr. Woolas: It is our practice to provide a copy to the hon. Member.

Drugs: Crime

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department has collected on the relationship between retail theft and *(a)* drug and *(b)* alcohol addiction; and if she will make a statement. [260061]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The relationship between any crime and drug or alcohol misuse is complex. There is some evidence which points to the relationship between acquisitive crimes and drug misuse. The links between acquisitive crime and alcohol are less clear in the current evidence base. The information held by the Department does not focus specifically on retail theft, but focuses on the broader categories of 'theft' or 'acquisitive crime'.

The Department has commissioned a number of studies which provide information on the relationship between acquisitive crime and drug/or alcohol use. In addition, monitoring data from the Drug Interventions Programme (DIP) are routinely collated.

The Arrestee Survey: provides information on arrestees' self-reported offending while using drugs and reported crimes committed in order to buy/get hold of drugs. The survey also provides data for the number of arrestees who are assessed on the basis of a validated tool as being 'alcohol dependent'.

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1207.pdf

The Drug Treatment Outcomes Research Study: is a representative study of drug treatment-seekers in England and Wales. The findings from this survey provide information on the number of treatment-seekers who had committed offences prior to interview, the number committing offences in order to buy drugs, and the numbers committing offences while under the influence of drugs.

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/horr03c.pdf

The Offending Crime and Justice Survey, a survey of offending among young people in the general population, asks whether offenders who had committed 'other thefts' (including retail but not limited to) had taken alcohol or drugs at the time of the offence.

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/hosb1706.pdf

The Drug Interventions Programme provides information on the number of positive drug tests (class A, specifically heroin, crack and cocaine) in 107 basic command units (BCUs) for those arrested and charged with a number of trigger offences, including theft.

Drugs: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which schemes have received funding under the Communities Against Drugs

Initiative in the Hemel Hempstead constituency in each year since 1997; how much was received under each scheme; and what targets were set relating to crime reduction under each scheme. [261180]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Communities Against Drugs (CAD) initiative was launched in April 2001. It was designed to provide funding to local areas to implement action to tackle local drugs issues. Under the initiative, Dacorum borough council received £108,500 in 2001-02 and in 2002-03.

From 2003-04 CAD funding, the Partnership Development Fund and the Safer Communities Initiative Fund were combined to create the Building Safer Communities Fund (BSC). The BSC was designed to enable local crime and drugs partnerships to take a more flexible approach to the use of funds to reduce crime and other drug-related problems. Under the BSC scheme, Dacorum received £147,372 in 2003-04 and £151,056 in both 2004-05 and 2005-06.

In 2005-06 the BSC fund formed part of the Home Office contribution to the Safer Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF), a joint Communities and Local Government (CLG)-Home Office funding stream aimed at tackling crime, drugs and antisocial behaviour, empowering communities, improving the condition of streets and public spaces and prioritising the most deprived neighbourhoods. SSCF was paid, through CLG, to unitary and top-tier authorities.

From April 2008, SSCF has formed part of the Area Based Grant (ABG). The ABG is paid, through CLG, to local authorities on a three-year basis, in the form of a general non-ringfenced revenue grant, providing local authorities with certainty and flexibility of funding to meet local priorities.

Drugs: Misuse

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals aged over 65 years resident in each *(a)* London borough and *(b)* Government Office region were arrested for possession of either class A or class B drugs in the last five years. [261525]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, which includes drug offences.

From these centrally reported data we are not able to identify specific offences from within the main offence groups.

Entry Clearances

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many elected representatives from other democratic countries have been refused entry to the UK since 2000. [259952]

Mr. Woolas: It is not possible to provide definitive figures on the number of democratically elected representatives of other countries that have been refused entry between 2000 and 2008. This information can be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual records at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 152W, on entry clearances, what the *(a)* maximum, *(b)* minimum and *(c)* average processing time was for those applications not processed within the public service agreement target times; and if she will make a statement. [260760]

Mr. Woolas: In financial year 2007-08 we only measured visa processing times against PSA targets. We did not monitor performance outside these targets. New customer service standards for visa processing times were introduced in January 2009 and are published on the Border Agency's Visa Services website, together with actual monthly processing times for each visa-issuing post. These are end-to-end processing times which include processing at Visa Application Centres (run by our commercial partners) as well as processing at Visa Sections.

Former Ministers: Security

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of providing special protection for former Ministers in the UK was in 2007-08. [259953]

Mr. Coaker: I refer the hon. Member to my reply of 5 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1779W.

Genetics: Databases

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the number of cases where *(a)* fingerprints, *(b)* DNA and *(c)* a photograph have been entered on to the Police National Computer as a result of the issuing of penalty notices for disorder. [260071]

Mr. Alan Campbell: This information is not held centrally.

Identity Cards

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many identity cards had been issued by her Department at the latest date for which figures are available. [259951]

Mr. Woolas: As at 26 February 2009, 10,596 identity cards had been issued to foreign nationals.

Immigration: Data Protection

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what procedures her Department uses to authorise officials to access electronic files and databases relating to an individual's *(a)* immigration status, *(b)* asylum application and *(c)* passport application; and if she will make a statement. [253861]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office has secure process for granting access to computer systems for immigration and asylum. Computer systems, including processes for granting access, go through an accreditation process led by the Department of Security Unit.

Immigration: Ethiopia

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Ethiopian citizens and their dependants *(a)* were removed or deported and *(b)* left the UK voluntarily as a result of (i) an unsuccessful application for asylum and (ii) a breach of immigration conditions in (A) each of the last five years and (B) at the latest date in 2009 for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [258994]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 26 February 2009]:* The Home Office publishes statistics on the number of persons removed, including voluntary departures, from the UK on a quarterly and annual basis. National Statistics on immigration and asylum are placed in the Library of the House and are available from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Immigration: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals seeking indefinite leave to remain who are resident in Peterborough constituency have been waiting for their determination of status for a period of *(a)* less than 12 months, *(b)* between 12 and 24 months, *(c)* between 24 and 36 months and *(d)* more than 36 months; and if she will make a statement. [249285]

Mr. Woolas: The following table details the number of applicants resident in Peterborough awaiting a decision on their indefinite leave to remain application broken down by specified periods, but without reference to the reason.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Applicants recorded as being resident in the Peterborough postal area awaiting a decision regarding an application for indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom, by specified period, as 15 January 2009

	Number
Less than 12 months	110
12-24 months	10
24-36 months	25
More than 36 months	40
Total	185

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest five
2 Data relate to lead applicants only
Source:
UKBA Case Information Database

Intelligence Services

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will publish the reports her predecessors received on the activities of the security service in relation to the 1984 miners' strike, with particular reference to intelligence received from the National Union of Mineworkers and the method by which it was obtained. [261370]

Mr. Coaker: It is the established policy of successive Governments to offer no comment in response to questions about alleged activities of the intelligence and security agencies. The Home Office can therefore not confirm or deny whether the Secretary of State for the Home Department's predecessors received reports in connection to the 1984 miners' strike.

North Wales Police: Sick Leave

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many North Wales police officers currently absent from work through illness have been absent for a period of *(a)* between three and six months, *(b)* between six and 12 months and (c) more than 12 months. [261899]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 9 March 2009]:* The information requested is not held centrally. The available data relating to police sickness absence are for the amount of police officer and police staff working time lost to sickness. The data are available on the Home Office website, located at:

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/performanceandmeasurement/performanceassessment/assessments-2007-2008/north-wales

Offenders: Personal Records

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations other than police forces are permitted to use the Police National Computer; and if she will make a statement. [259060]

Mr. Coaker: There is a substantial body of legislation which regulates the Police National Computer (PNC), the principal part of which is the Data Protection Act (1984, 1988, 1998 and 2003) and part 5 of the Police Act 1997. The code of practice for the management of police information, introduced under the provisions of the Police Act 1996 and the National Police Records (Recordable Offences) Regulations 2000, form a secondary layer of regulation.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary inspects police forces' use of PNC.

Access to PNC by non-police organisations is governed by the PNC Information Access Panel (PIAP), whose membership is comprised of the Association of Chief Police Officers, the Association of Police Authorities, the Home Office, and the National Policing Improvement Agency.

Any business case considered by PIAP requesting access to the PNC must:

1. Identify where there is a lawful and justifiable reason for the granting of access. 'Justifiable' is to include:

Protection of Life and Property

Preserving Order

Preventing the Commission of Offences

Bringing Offenders to Justice

Counter Terrorism.

2. Determine whether the access is appropriate to the lawful data needs of the applicant organisation.

3. Ensure appropriate safeguards exist for compliance with data protection and human rights legislation or information assurance rules.

4. Make sure adequate security measures are in place for the transmission to and storage in the requesting organisation.

5. Be certain that an appropriate training regime exists in the applicant organisation for users of PNC.

PIAP has defined the following organisations as 'non-police' and has agreed that authorised users within these organisations can have a level of access commensurate with their previously stated and agreed business needs.

Non-police organisations with access to PNC:

1. Access Northern Ireland
2. Charity Commission for England and Wales
3. Criminal Cases Review Commission
4. Criminal Records Bureau
5. Defence Vetting Agency
6. Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform
7. Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
8. Department for Transport
9. Department for Work and Pensions
10. Disclosure Scotland
11. Drivers Vehicle and Licensing Authority
12. Environment Agency
13. Financial Services Authority
14. Foreign and Commonwealth Office
15. Gangmasters Licensing Authority
16. Health and Safety Executive
17. Highways Agency
18. Her Majesty's Prison Service
19. Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs
20. Home Office
21. Independent Police Complaints Commission
22. Jersey Customs and Immigration
23. Mersey Tunnels Police
24. Ministry of Justice
25. National Air Traffic Service
26. National Health Service
27. Office of Civil Nuclear Security
28. Office of Fair Trading
29. Royal Mail
30. United Kingdom Border Agency
31. Vehicle and Operators Service Agency.

Offensive Weapons: Crime Prevention

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much had been spent on the implementation of the Tackling Knives Action Programme in each of the participating areas at the latest date for which figures are available; and if she will take steps to implement the programme in other areas with high levels of knife crime. [259517]

Mr. Coaker: More than £5 million has been spent on the implementation of the Tackling Knives Action Programme (TKAP). A breakdown of the £1.8 million that was initially invested in the 10 areas is appended as follows. A further £300,000 was provided to the forces to procure 85 search arches and 566 wands in addition to the 350 wands and 100 arches previously provided nationally.

In October, £3.4 million of extra funding was allocated to police forces in the TKAP areas to extend after-school patrols, Safer Schools Partnerships and Operation Staysafe programmes, to ensure that young people are kept safe in and around their school. A further £100,000 has also been made available to combat underage sales of knives.

In addition to the 10 'first tier', TKAP police forces have also identified Bedfordshire, South Yorkshire and Northumbria as areas that could benefit from TKAP's intensive approach as well as the British Transport police. The geographical coverage of TKAP continues to be kept under review.

Initial investment in TKAP police force areas

	£
First tier forces	
Metropolitan Police Service	250,000.00
Essex Police	150,000.00
Greater Manchester Police	150,000.00
Lancashire Constabulary	150,000.00
Merseyside Police	150,000.00
Nottinghamshire Police	150,000.00
South Wales Police	150,000.00
Thames Valley Police	150,000.00
West Midlands Police	150,000.00
West Yorkshire Police	150,000.00
Second tier forces	
Bedfordshire Police	51,785.00
British Transport Police	50,000.00
Northumbria Police	57,000.00
South Yorkshire Police	50,000.00

Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding her Department will allocate to the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner in each of the next three years; and how much will be allocated specifically for the regulation of those who provide immigration advice and services. [261219]

Mr. Woolas: The grant in aid to be given to the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) for the year 2009-10 is under consideration but has not yet been completed.

Police: Compensation

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what scheme of compensation exists for British police officers injured while working in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan; and if she will make a statement. [261847]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 9 March 2009]:* British police officers serving in Iraq or Afghanistan, or their dependants, are eligible for an award under the Police (Injury Benefit) Regulations if they become permanently disabled as a result of an injury received in the execution of duty. Police officers serving in those countries may also be eligible for an award under a separate compensation scheme administered by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in the event of an injury while on or off duty in the mission area.

Police: Greater Manchester

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the cost of policing the new electronic borders operations centre in Wythenshawe, Greater Manchester. [258920]

Mr. Woolas: We have taken the view that the benefit of protecting this facility far outweighs the cost.

Police: Powers

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps her Department has taken to modernise the *(a)* powers and *(b)* practices of police forces. [258854]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 2 March 2009]:* The Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984 and the accompanying PACE codes of practice are subject to ongoing review.

A formal public consultation on PACE and modernising police powers was carried out in March 2007 and August 2008. The PACE review website provides full details of the consultation process.

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/operational-policing/powers-pace-codes/PACE-Review/

Police: Road Traffic Control

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many road traffic police officers there were in 1996; and how many there are at the present time. [261538]

Mr. Coaker: Available data relate to 1995-96 and 2007-08, when there were 8,084 and 6,299 full-time equivalent police officers respectively employed in the function traffic.

Prostitution

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much local authorities spent on average in each of the last five years on policing prostitution. [259207]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Police funding is devolved directly to police forces from central Government and it is for each force to identify how its budget is spent.

Therefore, the Home Office does not monitor the spending by different forces on specific aspects of policing.

Religious Buildings: Wiltshire

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many places of religious worship of each faith denomination in *(a)* Salisbury constituency and *(b)* Wiltshire (i) are certified under the Places of Religious Worship Registration Act 1855 and (ii) have been so certified in each of the last five years. [260209]

Mr. Malik: I have been asked to reply.

The register of buildings registered for worship is not held in a format that can be readily broken down into individual parliamentary constituencies. The closest geographical area for registration purposes which includes Salisbury and Wiltshire is the registration district of Wiltshire. There are currently 260 places of meeting for religious worship certified under the Act for the registration district of Wiltshire. These are broken down by faith and denomination as follows:

Faith	*Number of buildings*
Roman Catholics	26
Methodists	82
Congregationalists	10
Baptists	61
United Reformed	19
Brethren	3
Salvation Army	5
Unitarians	1
Society of Friends	4
Jehovah's Witness	8
Other Christian Bodies	41

Note:
Other Christian Bodies includes Christian denominations such as Assemblies of God, Pentecostal, Spiritualists and Independents.

During the last five years the following places of meeting for religious worship have been certified by faith and denomination in the registration district of Wiltshire:

Faith	*Number of places of meeting*
2005	
Christians not otherwise designated	1
2006	
Baptists	1

Security Services: Equality

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of *(a)* field-based and *(b)* office-based Security Service officers were of each *(a)* ethnicity, *(b)* religious faith and *(c)* sex in each year since 2001. [258552]

Mr. Coaker: The available information on ethnicity and gender is provided in the following table. Similar information by religious faith is not available. The Security Service does not record such information differentiating between field-based and office-based staff.

	Gender		*Ethnicity*	
	Numbers of females	*Percentage of females*	*Numbers of black minority ethnic*	*Percentage of black minority ethnic*
2001	882	46.4	62	3.3
2002	902	46.4	72	3.6
2003	993	47.4	83	4.0
2004	1,061	47.6	103	4.6

	Gender		Ethnicity	
	Numbers of females	Percentage of females	Numbers of black minority ethnic	Percentage of black minority ethnic
2005	1,107	46.5	116	4.9
2006	1,156	44.5	158	6.1
2007	1,260	43.9	189	6.6
2008	1,386	41.9	227	6.9
2009	1,454	41.8	237	6.8

Note:
All figures are as at 1 April, except 2009 which is as at 1 January. In line with Whitehall practice, ethnic monitoring is carried out on the basis of self declaration and is calculated as a percentage of those declaring ethnic origin—the response rate is around 98 per cent.

Terrorism

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many charges relating to offences under counter-terrorism legislation were brought by police in England in 2006. [254689]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office science research group will be publishing a statistical bulletin on terrorism arrests and outcomes. This will provide detail on terrorism related charges and convictions, providing a breakdown of specific offences. The bulletin will show the numbers of people charged and convicted and the charge to conviction ratio.

The bulletin is due to be published shortly.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps the Government are taking to prevent acts of terrorism. [258857]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 2 March 2009]:* The Government have in place a comprehensive strategy to address the threat from terrorism—called Contest—which is based around four pillars:

Prevent—stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting violent extremism;

Pursue—stopping terrorist attacks;

Protect—strengthening our overall protection against terrorist attack; and

Prepare—where we cannot stop an attack, to mitigate its impact.

We have spent much of the last year updating this strategy. This is very much about learning from our experiences and successes in recent years. A revised version of Contest will be published shortly.

Terrorism: Information Sharing

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with her counterparts in those EU member states which allow for the admissibility of intercept evidence in the prosecution of suspected terrorists and others involved in serious crimes on the subject; and if she will make a statement. [261400]

Mr. Coaker: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has regular contact with her EU counterparts in the Justice and Home Affairs Council and in bilateral meetings. She has not had any specific discussions relating to intercept as evidence (IAE) with her counterparts in EU member states.

The Terms of Reference of the cross-party Privy Council Review of IAE (CM7324), established by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister in July 2007, included the requirement to consider the experience of other countries and their relevance to the UK. It found that (para 180):

"the approaches adopted by the EU countries, other than the Republic of Ireland, tend not to have great relevance for the UK..."

It also noted (para 135) that in the Republic of Ireland the practice is:

"not to use intercept product as evidence in prosecutions".

Progress on implementing the Privy Council Review's recommendations can be found in the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary on 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 89-90WS.

Travel Requirements: Fraud

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many detections of instances of travel document fraud were made at *(a)* ports of entry and *(b)* compliance offices since 1 May 2004 in respect of travel documents issued by EU member states, broken down by issuing state. [251937]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 27 January 2009]:* The following tables detail the detections of false European Union documents at UK border agency border force offices and immigration group enforcement offices for the period in question. They include passports, identity cards, refugee travel documents and emergency travel documents.

Border force detections of false EU travel documents

Country	2004[1]	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
AUT-Austria	30	28	18	15	8	99
BEL-Belgium	249	140	91	60	97	637
BGR-Bulgaria	n/a	n/a	n/a	87	113	200
CYP-Cyprus	3	4	4	12	20	43
CZE-Czech	56	71	80	50	44	301
D-Germany	178	121	87	50	44	480
DNK-Denmark	41	60	57	15	16	189

Border force detections of false EU travel documents

Country	2004[1]	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
ESP-Spain	78	100	78	32	41	329
EST-Estonia	8	12	1	3	8	32
FIN-Finland	3	5	4	16	20	48
FRA-France	497	536	310	143	207	1,693
GBR-Great Britain	656	622	367	348	283	2,276
GRC-Greece	146	137	97	65	85	530
HUN-Hungary	37	99	79	7	8	230
IRL-Ireland	11	20	8	3	4	46
ITA-Italy	221	218	228	162	157	986
LTU-Lithuania	295	460	261	103	105	1,224
LUX-Luxembourg	1	1	0	0	0	2
LVA-Latvia	15	51	75	37	23	201
MLT-Malta	1	0	1	2	3	7
NLD-Netherlands	475	264	152	118	95	1,104
POL-Poland	71	140	178	107	110	606
PRT-Portugal	256	243	243	163	145	1,050
ROU-Romania	n/a	n/a	n/a	130	83	213
SVK-Slovakia	46	50	56	56	56	264
SVN-Slovenia	19	13	25	17	12	86
SWE-Sweden	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	3,393	3,395	2,500	1,801	1,788	12,877

Immigration group enforcement detections of false EU travel documents

Country	2004[1]	2005	2006	2007	2008	Total
AUT-Austria	0	1	0	1	0	2
BEL-Belgium	23	52	44	88	75	282
BGR-Bulgaria	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	7	12
CYP-Cyprus	0	0	0	2	1	3
CZE-Czech	2	1	8	15	6	32
D-Germany	0	1	2	23	7	33
DNK-Denmark	10	11	15	12	8	56
ESP-Spain	19	31	62	77	54	243
EST-Estonia	2	0	7	4	2	15
FIN-Finland	2	1	0	5	3	11
FRA-France	120	138	157	159	147	721
GBR-Great Britain	24	66	91	91	69	341
GRC-Greece	29	52	52	42	24	199
HUN-Hungary	0	3	8	0	1	12
IRL-Ireland	2	0	2	1	0	5
ITA-Italy	64	78	132	119	76	469
LTU-Lithuania	77	91	62	57	48	335
LUX-Luxembourg	0	0	0	0	0	0
LVA-Latvia	1	11	28	33	12	85
MLT-Malta	0	0	0	0	0	0
NLD-Netherlands	14	42	33	31	20	140
POL-Poland	28	3	15	7	7	60
PRT-Portugal	85	130	100	197	125	637
ROU-Romania	n/a	n/a	n/a	9	16	25
SVK-Slovakia	0	6	4	9	3	22
SVN-Slovenia	0	0	12	4	4	20
SWE-Sweden	2	0	4	1	1	8
Total	504	718	838	992	716	3,768

[1] From 1 May 2004

UK Border Agency

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals the UK Border Agency employed at the latest date for which figures are available. [252405]

Mr. Woolas: As at 31 December 2008, the United Kingdom Border Agency (UKBA) employed directly 18,078 individuals (excluding 1,206 employees on career break, loan to other Government Departments, maternity leave etc.).

UK Border Agency: Correspondence

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy that replies sent from the UK Border Agency to letters from hon. Members are issued by the Chief Executive of the Agency. [251292]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 26 January 2009]:* The UK Border Agency receives approximately 50,000 letters from hon. Members each year. As such, it is not possible for the Chief Executive to reply to each letter individually.

Where a hon. Member has written to Ministers about the day to day operations of the UK Border Agency the Chief Executive or Deputy Chief Executive will reply. Where hon. Members have written to the Chief Executive, because of the volumes involved, a local manager may reply.

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the UK Border Agency plans to reply to the letter of 6 November 2008 (Special Delivery reference ZC982623786GB), the email of 2 December 2008 and letter of 19 January 2009 from the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood, sent on behalf of Satnam Kaur Thomas (Home Office reference number J1055280). [261681]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency wrote to the right hon. Member on 5 March 2009.

Vetting

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when the Government plans to provide standard disclosures for criminal record bureau checks; [261878]

(2) what recent estimate she has made of the cost of introducing standard disclosures for criminal record bureau checks. [261879]

Mr. Malik: I have been asked to reply.

Standard level disclosures (criminal records checks) have been available since the launch of the CRB Disclosure Service in March 2002. Therefore there has been no recent estimate made of the cost of their introduction.

Vetting: Finance

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much it cost to process Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks in the last year for which figures are available; how many CRB checks were carried out in that period; and how much was received in fees for checks in that period. [260278]

Mr. Malik *[holding answer 3 March 2009]:* I have been asked to reply.

The cost to process Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks in the last financial year for which information is available (2007-08) is £88.2 million. During that period the CRB processed 3.4 million disclosures, which generated £97.8 million in revenue from fees. It should be borne in mind that 20 per cent. of the disclosures processed were for volunteer applications for which there is no charge, which represents a considerable saving to the voluntary sector. The CRB is committed to providing free-of-charge checks for volunteers.

Work Permits: Applications

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many work permits were refused for non-UK born applicants in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008; [260815]

(2) how many work permits have been approved for non-UK job applicants for jobs in which no suitably qualified UK-born applicant could be found in 2007-08. [260816]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency only maintains statistics on the nationality of work permit applicants and not their country of birth.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Relations

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 582-3W, on community relations, when Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary plans to report on its inspection of Prevent performance in police forces in England and Wales. [262011]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary are nearing completion of their inspection of police Prevent activity, and plan to report their findings in April 2009.

Council Housing: Overcrowding

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to announce additional funding to assist local housing authorities to deal with severe over-crowding. [259937]

Mr. Iain Wright: We have allocated an additional £5 million of resource grant funding for 2009-10 to support a strategic and proactive approach to tackling overcrowding in the worst affected local authority areas. We have asked all pathfinders to focus on tackling severe overcrowding in the social stock. My officials wrote to relevant local authorities to inform them of their individual grant allocations on 24 and 25 February.

Council Housing: Rents

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the estimated average rise in council housing rents will be from April 2009. [262626]

Mr. Iain Wright: This information is not yet available.

The Minister for Housing announced on 6 March that Communities and Local Government will shortly be consulting local authorities on a reduced national average guideline rent increase of 3.1 per cent. for 2009-10. This halves the existing national increase of 6.2 per cent. in recognition of the current difficult economic times. Authorities that reduce their rent increases in response to our offer will be compensated by central Government through the subsidy system.

We have also already committed to looking again at the 2010-11 national guideline rent increase in the light of circumstances closer to the start of that financial year.

Council Housing: Waiting Lists

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households were on local authority housing waiting lists in *(a)* England and *(b)* each local authority area at the latest date for which figures are available. [262098]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the noble Lord Ouseley, on 27 January 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, columns WA37-38. The number of households registered on local authority housing waiting lists in each local authority, as at 1 April each year, is published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 600. The latest available data are at April 2008. The link for this table is:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table600.xls

A copy of the table has been deposited in the Library.

Council Tax: Discounts

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities offer a local council tax discount to pensioners. [261999]

John Healey: As at 6 October 2008, five authorities—Bury metropolitan borough council, Kirklees council, Lincoln city council, the London borough of Hillingdon and the metropolitan borough council of Wirral—reported that they offer local council tax discounts for pensioners.

Departmental Furniture

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 343W, on departmental furniture, which suppliers provided furniture and fitting services to her Department in 2007-08. [262151]

Mr. Khan: The firms who supplied furniture and fittings to the Department were Herman Miller, Steelcase Solutions and Office Storage Solutions Ltd.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what payments for *(a)* polling and *(b)* other services her Department has made to (i) Deborah Mattinson and (ii) Opinion Leader Research Limited since 31 December 2007; and if she will make a statement. [261061]

Mr. Khan: No payments have been made to Deborah Mattinson and only one payment has been made to Opinion Leader Research since 31 December 2007. The payment to Opinion Leader Research was £55,210. This was in connection with a contract to carry out research to develop the evidence base for the PSA 16 settled accommodation indicators.

EC Grants and Loans

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the total financial correction likely to be imposed on the UK by the European Commission in respect of irregularities in management of European funds. [261992]

John Healey: The Department made provision of £33 million in respect of a decision expected from the European Commission in respect of the closure of the 1997-1999 round of structural funds programmes, although we now expect the final figure to be less than this.

Empty Property

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of empty homes which have been brought back into use in each of the last five years. [260821]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is not held centrally.

Fire Prevention

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to her Department's Fire and Resilience Research Programme for 2008, whether she plans to commission a longitudinal study of the effects of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005; and if she will make a statement. [261738]

Mr. Khan: An initial evaluation of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 will be published shortly. This will provide a basis for a future, longer-term evaluation planned and serve as a baseline against which to consider the impact and effectiveness of the order over time.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to her Department's Fire and Resilience Research Programme for 2008, what progress has been made on research into the optimal size of a fire and rescue service; and if she will make a statement. [261739]

Mr. Khan: Research into the optimal size of the fire and rescue service was not taken forward.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many buildings which were exempt from the regulatory requirements of the Fire Precautions Act 1971 are subject to the requirements of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. [261815]

Mr. Khan: We do not hold data on the number of premises covered by the provisions of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order. It applies to all non-domestic premises, including the common or shared parts of blocks of flats and houses in multiple occupation (HMOs).

Neither do we hold data on the number of premises designated by the Secretary of State under the 1971 Fire Precautions Act which were required to apply for and hold a fire certificate. Premises designated under the 1971 Act were:

(i) hotels and boarding houses providing accommodation for more than six people (whether employees or guests) or providing sleeping accommodation elsewhere than on the ground or first floors of the premises;

(ii) factories, offices and shops where more than 20 people worked at anyone time or more than 10 worked at any one time elsewhere than on the ground floor; and

(iii) smaller factories where significant quantities of highly flammable substances were stored.

Fire Services

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many fire and rescue authorities are contracted to support the FiReControl project; and whether there are break clauses in each of those contracts. [262042]

Mr. Khan: None. The IT contract for FiReControl is between my Department and EADS Defence and Security. This contract was signed in March 2007 and the first break point is March 2015.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the Answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 724W, on New Dimension Programme, if she will place in the Library a copy of the report by NERA UK Ltd on the New Dimension Programme. [262543]

Mr. Khan: The report will be placed in the Library of the House when completed, which is expected to be April 2009.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 28 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 634-5W, on fire services, if she will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of the meetings of the Fireguard project board that are held by Firebuy. [262674]

Mr. Khan: The minutes of the meeting of the Fireguard project board were produced by the Chief Fire Officers' Association. It is for them to decide if copies can be made publicly available.

Fire Services: East of England

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects the new fire control centre for the east of England to be *(a)* completed and *(b)* fully operational. [262719]

Mr. Khan: The East of England Regional Control Centre building was completed on 1 October 2008. The current expectation is that the emergency calls of the first fire and rescue services using the East of England Regional Control Centre (Cambridgeshire, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire) will cut over in October 2011, with all East of England FRSs using the services by December 2011.

Fire Services: Industrial Disputes

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has made for fire cover in the event of *(a)* a local and *(b)* a national fire strike pending full take-up of the Fireguard programme. [262594]

Mr. Khan: The planning for the provision of emergency fire cover during industrial disputes is the responsibility of Fire and Rescue Authorities. The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 lays down duties for specified "Category 1 responders", including fire and rescue authorities, to assess, plan and advise in relation to emergencies. For a fire and rescue authority, an emergency includes a period of industrial action.

Fire Services: Influenza

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the preparedness of *(a)* fire and rescue authorities and *(b)* local authorities for an influenza pandemic. [262593]

Mr. Khan: The Government make no detailed assessment of preparedness for this purpose as it is for local authorities and the Fire and Rescue Service to decide how to meet their legal obligations to plan for an influenza pandemic under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. As members of Local Resilience Forums they are also required to work with other local emergency responders to co-ordinate their planning against such a contingency. Also, these "flu plans" are regularly tested and validated during both national and local exercises.

Fire Services: Medals

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) of 29 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 770W, on fire services, if she will make it her policy to make staff in regional fire control rooms eligible for the Fire Brigade's Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. [262273]

Mr. Khan: Staff in the new regional control centres controlled by local authority owned companies will not be in fire brigade employment and will not therefore be eligible for the Fire Brigade Long Service and Good Conduct Medal under the terms of the Royal Warrant. There is currently no proposal to change the Royal Warrant.

Firebuy

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 28 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 631W, on the departmental expenditure limit, if she will set out what the nature, parties and status was of the legal dispute over Firebuy and the Integrated Clothing Project procurement. [262672]

Mr. Khan: The legal dispute concerned the procurement process for the Integrated Clothing Project and was brought by Lion Apparel Systems Ltd against Firebuy Ltd. An agreement has now been reached between the parties to settle the dispute and all claims against Firebuy have been withdrawn.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 28 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 631W, on the departmental expenditure limit, for what purposes the remaining £1.9 million of public funds was transferred to Firebuy. [262673]

Mr. Khan: CLG has provided £1.9 million in 2008-09 to cover the forecast running costs of Firebuy Ltd.

Housing: EC Action

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) of 29 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 775W, on housing: EC action, what timetable has been set for conducting the impact assessment of the EU proposal; and if she will place in the Library a copy of the completed assessment. [262263]

Mr. Iain Wright: The impact assessment is currently being prepared and we are aiming for it to be completed by the end of this month. A copy of the completed assessment will be placed in the Library of the House.

Improvement and Development Agency for Local Government: Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what projects the Improvement and Development Agency receives funding from her Department. [262043]

John Healey: In 2008-09, the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA) received £25,335,000 revenue support grant (RSG) funding from my Department, to provide core services for local government improvement. In addition, £3,395,000 of additional departmental funding was added to the top slice the IDeA received to enable them to provide services which the Department wished to see supported, the details of which are as follows:

Project	*£*
Innovation and Excellence (inc Beacons)	675,000
Good Practice—IDeA Knowledge and Research	300,000
Programme Support	400,000
Migration—Good Practice	20,000
Support for the Leadership Centre	2,000,000
Total	3,395,000

Local Government Finance

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to encourage local authorities to reduce the length of time they take to pay the invoices from small and medium-sized enterprises. [261970]

John Healey: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 26 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1044W.

Local Government Information Unit: Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding her Department and its predecessor have given to the Local Government Information Unit in each of the last five years; and for what purposes. [261991]

Mr. Khan: The information is as follows:

Financial year	*Purpose*	*£*
2004	Reimbursement of conference fees	-2,943.28
2005	Reimbursement of conference fees	-6,021.88
	Reimbursement of training course fees	-176.25
2006	Reimbursement of conference fees	-82.25
2007	—	—
2008	Reimbursement of consulting fees	-20,804.38
2009	Reimbursement of salary	-65,963.25
	Refund of travel costs	-15,102.04
	Reimbursement of consultant costs	-85,042.98
	Reimbursement of legal fees	-1,178.75

Local Government: Elections

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government are taking to help local authorities prepare for local elections in areas where European elections will be held alongside those for local authorities. [261749]

John Healey: The Government are working with the Electoral Commission, the Association of Electoral Administrators and other stakeholders including regional returning officers to ensure that all necessary legislation and guidance is in place for these elections. In particular in areas undergoing local government restructuring the Government legislated to enable those who will be responsible for the conduct of both local and European elections to begin preparations before 1 April 2009, the date new unitary authorities will become responsible for all local government services in their area.

Local Government: Internet

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps the Government have taken to improve local e-government. [261750]

John Healey: The Local e-Government Programme ended in April 2006 and recent steps are designed to build upon the e-government infrastructure that is now place across England to help transform local services to better meet citizens' needs and expectations. This is in line with commitments in the 'Communities in Control' White Paper and the cross-cutting Service Transformation Agreement published in October 2007. For example, as part of service transformation activity, Communities and Local Government is currently supporting the sector through its Efficiency and Transformation Capital Fund to develop second generation local authority websites which embrace Web 2.0 features such as social networking and information sharing.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps the Government have taken to promote local government services through the direct.gov portal. [261751]

Mr. Khan: The Take-Up Campaign to encourage more people to use online council services was launched by Communities and Local Government on 8 May 2006. As part of campaign activity, a permanent destination page for local government services through the direct.gov portal has now been established at:

http://campaigns.direct.gov.uk/mycouncil/

This page also supports the Local Directgov application, which takes users from the direct.gov website to the most relevant service page on their local council's website in just four mouse clicks, simply by entering details of their postcode, street, town or local authority name. Communities and Local Government also manages the Home and Community Franchise on the direct.gov portal, which covers a selection of local housing and neighbourhood services.

Local Government: Pay

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what statistics *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Audit Commission collect on local authority chief executives' pay. [262096]

John Healey: Neither central Government nor the Audit Commission routinely collect the information requested on the salaries of local authority chief executives. The Commission's recent report on the labour market for council chief executives, "Tougher at the Top?", drew on data from the Local Government Association's annual survey of chief executives and chief officers' salaries. The report also used an Audit Commission database identifying rates of turnover, tenure length and sources of recruitment of single tier and county council chief executives since 1998. These data were collected specifically for the research. A copy of the report can be found on the Audit Commission's website:

http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/Products/NATIONAL-REPORT/50CD0741-0884-4636-9525-B1A3FBAA8432/TougherAtTheTop22July08REP.pdf

Local Government: Pensions

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what retirement ages are set for members of the Local Government Pension Scheme; and what estimate she has made of the number of scheme members eligible to retire at 60 years under the Rule of 85 test. [261990]

John Healey: The Local Government Pension Scheme has a retirement age of 65 although members can choose to retire from age 60 when their pension may be subject to actuarial reduction. New benefit arrangements came into force from 1 April 2008, and as part of its development it was estimated that some 14 per cent. of members would be covered by the rule of 85 transitional protection up to 31 March 2016, and a further 6 per cent. by the removal of the tapered protection between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2020.

Local Government: Public Transport

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what role regional Ministers have in the allocation of regional transport funds. [261791]

Mr. Khan: Regional Ministers do not agree the regional transport funding allocations as this is the responsibility of the Transport Ministers. Regional Ministers however do work with regional partners to develop the regional priorities, providing advice and developing bids. They also support departmental Ministers to interpret the advice and have a role in disseminating messages in the region.

Migration Trust Fund

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funds were allocated from the Migration Trust Fund to police forces in England and Wales in 2008. [260813]

Mr. Khan: In February 2008, we announced a fund to manage the transitional impacts of migration which will be available to public services, including police forces, to promote innovative ways of working in this area. The fund will raise tens of millions of pounds and will start from April 2009.

Non-Domestic Rates: Business

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the merits of local authorities being able to levy a business rate. [261634]

John Healey: The Lyons Inquiry into local government considered the case for returning business rates to local control. Its analysis was that this would not be appropriate at the current time. The Government agreed. However, Sir Michael Lyons' did recommend introducing a new local flexibility to set a supplement on business rates.

In October 2007, alongside the 2007 Pre-Budget Report and comprehensive spending review, the Government published 'Business rate supplements: a White Paper'. The Business Rate Supplements Bill was then introduced in the House of Commons on 4 December 2008 and gives effect to the Government's proposals in the White Paper. The Bill provides the Greater London Authority and, outside London, upper tier local authorities with a discretionary power to levy a supplement on the business

rate and retain and invest the proceeds in additional projects aimed at promoting the economic development of local areas.

Planning Permission

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account *(a)* local planning authorities and *(b)* the Planning Inspectorate will be required to take of national policy statements (i) before and (ii) after the Infrastructure Planning Commission is operational. [262034]

Mr. Iain Wright: National Policy Statements (NPSs) will be statements of government policy. NPSs will provide a clear policy framework within which the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) will take decisions on nationally significant infrastructure projects (NSIPs). NPSs may also set out policy which could have a bearing on smaller projects consented via other routes, including planning applications determined by local planning authorities (LPAs). Local planning authorities will have to take into account NPSs, as statements of government policy, when preparing their development plan documents, whether or not the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) is operational. Where development plan documents have not yet been updated to take account of a particular NPS, any relevant policy in the NPS should be taken into account by the LPA as a material consideration when making decisions on development applications.

The Planning Inspectorate will have to take account of national policy statements, as statements of Government policy, where they are relevant to a decision on a planning appeal, or when making a recommendation to the Secretary of State on applications which have been called in for determination by the Secretary of State. NPSs may be relevant to PINS cases whether or not the IPC is operational.

Regional Planning and Development

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding her Department has provided for each Regional Centre of Excellence in the most recent year for which figures are available; and what the *(a)* title and *(b)* postal address is of each such centre. [262691]

Mr. Khan: The most recent year figures for funding provided to Regional Centres of Excellence are for 2007-08:

	£ million
East	1.51
East Midlands	1
London	1.08
North East	0.81
North West	1.14
South East	1.36
South West	1.07
West Midlands	1.02
Yorkshire and Humber	0.91

The Regional Centres of Excellence were subsumed with Regional Improvement Partnerships into Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnerships in April 2008. Due to the fact that Regional Centres of Excellence no longer exist there are no offices in place.

Renewable Energy: Planning Permission

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the meaning is of the measurement ten rotor diameters of a turbine referred to in paragraph 76 of the Planning for Renewable Energy Companion Guide to PPS22; and what guidance has been provided on that meaning. [261877]

Mr. Iain Wright: Shadow flicker from a wind turbine can be mitigated by siting it at sufficient distance from property likely to be affected. Flicker effects have been proven to occur only within '10 rotor diameters of a turbine'. The minimum separation distance to avoid shadow flicker from a wind turbine is therefore derived by multiplying the proposed rotor diameter by 10. The Companion Guide to PPS22 provides a worked example (paragraph 76) and depicts diagrammatically (Figure 5, page 102) the measurement 'one rotor diameter'.

Rodents

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) of 29 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 711W, on rodents, what the timetable is for the publication of English Condition Survey research relating to the period after 2003-04. [263614]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I have been asked to reply.

Information from the next English House Condition Survey on rodent presence in domestic premises should be available this year, although at present there is no set date for publication.

Social Rented Housing

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which registered social landlords (RSLs) operate cash incentive schemes to encourage under-occupying tenants to downsize; and how many RSL tenants have received money under this scheme in each of the last five years. [259936]

Mr. Iain Wright: Neither Communities and Local Government nor the Tenant Services Authority collect data relating to cash incentive schemes for RSL tenants.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in respect of how many individual properties in each local authority area records are held on the National Register for Social Housing. [262103]

Mr. Iain Wright: The total number of dwellings recorded on the National Register of Social Housing database at 28th February 2009 and allocated to a local authority area was 2,437,927. The local authority area numbers requested have been placed in the Library of the House.

Tenant Services Authority

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs.

Spelman) of 29 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 784W, on the Tenant Services Authority: publicity, whether external firms provided assistance with the development of the Tenant Service Authority brand. [262378]

Mr. Iain Wright: Yes. After competitive tender, the TSA awarded the job of developing their brand to the Engage Group.

Town Centre Management Schemes

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what town centre management schemes have been established in each local authority area in each year since 1997. [262431]

Mr. Iain Wright: Responsibility for Town Centre Management schemes falls to local authorities and local partners, and information on schemes is not held centrally.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Data Protection

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department uses WPA2 encryption protocol on all its wireless networks. [259816]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development follows CESG guidance on the use of the Wi-Fi protected access 2 (WPA2) communications security protocols in order to protect wireless networks carrying protectively marked (up to RESTRICTED/IL3) traffic. The configuration and operation standards for WPA2 are set out in CESG's Infosec Manual Y, Use of WPA2 wireless security in Government systems.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what scanning for vulnerabilities his Department conducts of each of its IT devices; what method is used for IT device scans; and how many vulnerabilities have been detected as a result of such scans in the last 12 months. [259819]

Mr. Thomas: It is not in the interest of the security of the Department for International Development, or that of the public, to disclose detailed information pertaining to electronic breaches of security of the Department's IT systems. Disclosing such information would enable criminals and those who would attempt to cause disruptive threats to the Department to deduce how to conduct attacks and therefore potentially enhance their capability to carry out such attacks.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what IT security policy his Department has; what procedures are in place to ensure the policy is being followed; what his Department's policy is on encryption of data when they leave departmental premises; and what sanctions are in place for failure to comply with this policy. [259850]

Mr. Thomas: Information is a key asset to Government and its correct handling is vital to the delivery of public services and to the integrity of HMG. The security policy framework, the data handling report and the national information assurance strategy produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic framework for protecting information that Government handles and put in place a set of mandatory measures which Departments must adhere to.

The Department for International Development is compliant with the security policies contained in the Government security policy framework, including those for information security and assurance.

Depending upon the circumstances, a range of sanctions are available including disciplinary or administrative action, and in extreme or persistent cases, termination of employment/services and, if appropriate, criminal proceedings.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's entertainment budget was in each of the last five years. [261102]

Mr. Thomas: The budgets for entertainment in the Department for International Development in each of the last five financial years were as follows:

	£
2003-04	322,206
2004-05	370,450
2005-06	418,353
2006-07	347,608
2007-08	284,179

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* food in each of the last five years. [261168]

Mr. Thomas: It is not possible to disaggregate specific entertainment costs without incurring disproportionate cost.

All entertainment is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on the principles of managing public money and the Treasury handbook on regularity and propriety.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many and what percentage of letters sent by his Department were given to *(a)* the Royal Mail and *(b)* another postal services provider for delivery in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [259974]

Mr. Thomas: In the last 12 months, 101,930 items were sent by the Royal Mail. This equated to 55 per cent. of our total post. The Royal Mail is our primary means of sending external mail.

Departmental Press

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on newspapers, magazines and periodicals in each year since 1997. [261176]

Mr. Michael Foster: Centrally managed expenditure on newspapers, magazines and periodicals since 2004 is listed in the following table. These publications are increasingly taken in electronic rather than printed versions. Figures for earlier years could be compiled only at disproportionate cost.

Centrally managed expenditure on newspapers, magazines and periodicals

	£
2004-05	135,887
2005-06	142,015
2006-07	88,290
2007-08	112,203
2008-09	[1]71,751.20

[1] Spend to date

Departmental Public Appointments

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what information his Department holds on the number of persons appointed to executive positions in bodies for which his Department has responsibility in the last five years who previously had careers in the banking industry. [261237]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: During the last five years, the Department for International Development (DFID) has been responsible for three non-departmental public bodies:

Overseas Service Pensions Scheme (OSPS) Advisory Board was wound up on 1 October 2005;

Crown Agents Holding and Realisation Board was wound up on 1 April 2008;

Commonwealth Scholarship Commission is still in operation.

No appointments were made to executive positions in these bodies during the last five years since none of the non-departmental public bodies employed any staff.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what payments for *(a)* polling and *(b)* other services his Department has made to (i) Deborah Mattinson and (ii) Opinion Leader Research Limited since 31 December 2007; and if he will make a statement. [260989]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not made any payments to (i) Deborah Mattinson or (ii) Opinion Leader Research Ltd since 31 December 2007, for polling or any other services.

Departmental Rail Travel

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cost to his Department was of travel by train by its staff in each year since 1997. [261178]

Mr. Thomas: DFID's expenditure on rail travel for each year from 2003-04 is detailed in the following table. To provide information for years prior to this would incur disproportionate cost.

Financial year	Total rail expenditure (£)
2003-04	339,132
2004-05	419,056
2005-06	421,720
2006-07	441,823
2007-08	450,570

Departmental Scientists

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's budget for scientific advice and research is in 2008-09; for what purposes the equivalent budget for 2007-08 was used; and how many people employed in his Department have a science or engineering degree. [260769]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development's (DFID) budget for scientific advice and research in 2008-09 was £135.8 million.

In 2007-08, the budget for scientific advice and research was £124.7 million. This was used to fund our priority research in human development (£50.8 million), growth and livelihoods (£42.7 million), and social, political and environmental change (£22.1 million) and £9 million was used to fund knowledge and communications programmes that ensured that the results of our research were disseminated and put into use.

DFID has above 665 members of staff with science or engineering degrees. This has been defined as those holding a B.Eng, B.Sc, Bsc.Econ, B.Soc Sc, M.Eng, MSc, or any other degree (such as BA etc.) where the qualification subject refers to science or engineering. Many of these staff have more than one degree.

Developing Countries: Family Planning

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which family planning programmes his Department supports; how much funding is being provided to each in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [261397]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) provided £20 million in core funding to United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). UNFPA has a global mandate to assist countries to deliver better sexual reproductive health and rights, including voluntary family planning services, and gender equality; and to better understand population dynamics including growth, ageing, fertility and mortality.

DFID provided £5 million to support UNFPA's Global Programme for Reproductive Health Commodity Security (GPRHCS) in 2008-09. The Global Programme will support up to 40 countries to access high quality and affordable essential drugs, contraceptives, and equipment for voluntary family planning services, HIV/STI prevention and maternal health services. The UK will be the largest donor to UNFPA's Global Programme with up to £100 million over five years.

It is not possible to provide an exact figure of DFID's funding to family planning at country level. This is because DFID has a number of funding channels for country programmes including budgetary support for

health systems, direct government budgetary support and multilateral funding which may have as a sub-component the provision of family planning commodities and services.

Family Planning: Finance

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what payments his Department has made to *(a)* Marie Stopes International, *(b)* the International Planned Parenthood Federation, *(c)* the British Pregnancy Advisory Service, *(d)* the United Nations Population Fund and *(e)* the Family Planning Association (UK) for (i) abortion, (ii) family planning and (iii) other reproductive health services in the last year; what the total of grants made to each organisation in that year was; how much he plans to give to each in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [261583]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Details of DFID's 2008-09 spending are not yet available but will be published in our 2009 annual report in July. DFID contributions to the listed organisations in the 2007-08 financial year are as follows;

Marie Stopes International (MSI) (funding for three projects): £220,000

International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF): £9.55 million (£7.5 million core contribution and £2,050 Safe Abortion Action Fund)

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA): £34.9 million (£20 million core contribution, £14.9 million in funding for projects at a country level)

British Pregnancy Advisory Service: 0

Family Planning Association: 0

UNFPA has the global mandate to assist countries deliver better sexual and reproductive health and rights, including voluntary family planning services and gender equality, and to better understand population dynamics including growth, ageing, fertility and mortality. Comprehensive family planning includes the provision of reproductive health services and the provision of services to prevent unsafe abortion. It is therefore not possible to disaggregate these figures.

DFID will provide £8.6 million per annum to IPPF over the next three years. DFID will also provide up to £89.5 million in un-earmarked core funding to UNFPA between 2008 and 2011. We will also provide £100 million between 2008-09 to 2012-13 to support UNFPA's Global Programme for Reproductive Health Commodity Security (GPRHCS).

It is not possible to provide similar figures for MSI. This is because DFID has a number of funding channels for country programmes including budgetary support for health systems, direct government budgetary support and multilateral funding which may have as a sub-component the provision of family planning commodities and services contracted to MSI.

Overseas Aid: Land Mines

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many countries have outstanding land mine clearance projects; and how much the Government have allocated to assist such projects *(a)* directly and *(b)* indirectly in 2009-10. [261007]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Landmine Monitor estimate there are more than 70 states, as well as six areas not internationally recognised, that are mine affected as of August 2008. The UK Government have allocated around £10 million to directly assist land mine clearance programmes in at least 17 of these countries in 2009.

The UK also provides funding to a number of multilateral organisations that work on land mine clearance, these include UNDP and the European Commission. However, we are unable to provide a figure for the total of this indirect support.

Palestinians: Overseas Aid

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which projects will receive funding from the £30 million allocated by his Department for reconstruction work in Gaza. [261898]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The objective of the Department for International Development's (DFID) support for the first phase of reconstruction, known as 'early recovery', is to help the most vulnerable people in Gaza rebuild their lives. We are currently assessing the best channels for such support. Options include assistance through the UN, the World Bank, the European Commission and non-governmental organisations. Our funding will help ensure delivery of basic services. As a first step, there is a need for large scale removal of rubble across Gaza. We have therefore allocated £443,000 to the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) to clear unexploded ordnance from these sites.

A full breakdown of DFID's funding for Gaza can be found on the DFID website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/news/files/gazafunding.asp

Public Opinion

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what expenditure has been incurred by the *(a)* Department, *(b)* agencies and *(c)* non-departmental bodies in each year since 1997 on (i) opinion polling, (ii) focus groups and (iii) other forms of market research; if he will list the surveys commissioned; and what the purpose was of each. [261175]

Mr. Thomas: *(a)* Details of DFID's expenditure on opinion polling and focus groups in each complete financial year since 1997 are outlined in the following table. (iii) DFID may have commissioned other forms of market research as part of its development programme, however these costs are not held centrally and it would incur disproportionate cost to obtain them. Figures for 2008-09 are not yet available.

	Focus groups	*Cost (£)*	*Opinion polls*	*Cost (£)*
1997-98	OLR Baseline Study to explore existing attitudes to, and perceptions of Britain's international development programme	43,000	—	—

	Focus groups	Cost (£)	Opinion polls	Cost (£)
1998-99	—	—	—	—
1999-2000	—	—	ONS poll to monitor the opinion of the UK adult population to inform development education.	28,200
			MORI poll to monitor the opinion of UK schoolchildren to inform and monitor impact of development education work.	14,700
			Readership survey of "Developments" magazine, in order to test its impact and reach.	1,804
2000-01	—	—	ONS poll to monitor the opinion of the UK adult population on international development to inform, and monitor the impact of, our work on development awareness and education.	33,000
			MORI poll to monitor the opinion of UK schoolchildren to inform and monitor impact of development education work.	14,629
2001-02	—	—	ONS poll to monitor the opinion of the UK adult population on international development used to inform, and monitor the impact of, our work on development awareness and education.	34,300
			MORI poll to monitor the opinion of UK schoolchildren to inform and monitor impact of development education work.	11,515
2002-03	OLR focus group to analyse public understanding of international news stories.	38,427	ONS poll to monitor the opinion of the UK adult population on international development used to inform, and monitor the impact of, our work on development awareness and education.	31,880
			MORI poll to monitor the opinion of UK schoolchildren to inform and monitor impact of development education work.	11,515
2003-04	OLR focus group research to explore ways of increasing understanding and support for international development in the UK.	50,309	ONS poll to monitor the opinion of the UK adult population on international development used to inform, and monitor the impact of, our work on development awareness and education.	32,990
			MORI poll to monitor the opinion of UK schoolchildren to inform and monitor impact of development education work.	12,220
2004-05	—	—	ONS poll to monitor the opinion of the UK adult population on international development used to inform, and monitor the impact of, our work on development awareness and education.	32,990
			MORI poll to monitor the opinion of UK schoolchildren to inform and monitor impact of development education work.	12,220
2005-06			ONS poll to monitor the opinion of the UK adult population on international development used to inform, and monitor the impact of, our work on development awareness and education.	41,766
			MORI poll to monitor the opinion of UK schoolchildren to inform and monitor impact of development education work.	14,776

	Focus groups	Cost (£)	Opinion polls	Cost (£)
2006-07	—	—	ONS poll to monitor the opinion of the UK adult population on international development used to inform, and monitor the impact of, our work on development awareness and education.	37,740
			MORI poll to monitor the opinion of UK schoolchildren to inform and monitor impact of development education work.	18,971
2007-08	Solutions Strategy Research. Qualitative research aimed at getting public opinions on ethical shopping, and the benefits it can bring to developing countries to inform, direct, and provide a factual basis for communications activity.	19,600	—	—
2007-08	—	—	Taylor Nelson Sofres RSGB questions on omnibus survey to provide interim measure on concern about global poverty among UK adults to inform, direct, and provide a solid factual basis for communications on the work of DFID on fighting global poverty.	5,940
2007-08			Taylor Nelson Sofres annual attitudinal tracking survey into public perceptions of global poverty to inform, direct, and provide a factual basis for communications on the work of DFID on fighting global poverty.	47,500
2007-08			ICM quantitative research survey to measure UK adults' interest in shopping ethically and the benefits that it can bring to developing countries to direct, inform, and provide a factual basis for communications activity.	8,844
2007-08	Creative Research. Qualitative stage of audience segmentation research to inform, direct, and provide a factual basis for communications the work of DFID.	52,895.62	—	—
2007-08	—	—	Taylor Nelson Sofres RSGB Quantitative research (questions on omnibus survey) to measure UK adults' interest in shopping ethically and the benefits that it can bring to developing countries.	7,400
2007-08			Ipsos Mori. Quantitative Stage of Audience Segmentation research, to inform, direct, and provide a factual basis for communications on the work of DFID.	137,818
2007-08			GfK NOP annual survey of young people's attitudes towards global poverty and development issues to inform, direct, and provide a factual basis for communications on the work of DFID.	23,745

(b) DFID has no agencies

(c) DFID has one non-departmental public body, the Commonwealth Scholarships Commission. The Commission has incurred no expenditure on opinion polling, focus groups or other forms of market research since 1997.

St Helena: Airports

Miss Widdecombe: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent representations he has received on the proposed construction of an airport on St. Helena; and if he will make a statement. [262300]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) has received a number of letters from Members of Parliament and other interested parties about the proposal to construct an airport on St. Helena. On 9 February, the Under-Secretary of State for International Development, my hon. Friend the Member for Worcester (Mr. Foster), met the Governor of St. Helena on the issue. He has also met with representatives from the bidding company, Impregilo SpA, on 10 February and from SHELCO (St. Helena Leisure Corporation Ltd) on 2 March.

Sudan: Internally Displaced Persons

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent reports he has received on the number of people displaced from Abyei in Sudan in May and December 2008 who have returned to their homes. [260763]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Fighting in May 2008 displaced approximately 55,000 people from Abyei town and surrounding areas from a total population of some 100,000. Up to 10,000 people displaced by fighting in May returned to Abyei after the signing of the Road

Map peace agreement in June 2008. However, the majority were later displaced again by fighting in December and the latest reports from the UN indicate that the population of Abyei and surrounding areas is now fewer than 50,000, not including nomadic populations. Of these, most are living in displaced camps in Agok. Ongoing security concerns and very weak basic civil administration are the main barriers to returns.

The Department for International Development (DFID) has provided £3 million for water, sanitation, health care and basic household items for the displaced in Abyei through the UN's Common Humanitarian Fund. DFID is also providing some £6.2 million in support of the Abyei administration, police and education.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Women in the Church

5. **Ms Keeble:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what discussions she has had with the Second Church Estates Commissioner on the employment of women in the church. [261698]

Maria Eagle: I have had no discussions with the Second Church Estates Commissioner on this matter. Issues such as the roles of women in the Church of England are a matter for the Church itself.

Domestic Violence

6. **Julie Morgan:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality if she will commission research to examine whether there is a relationship between major sporting events and levels of domestic violence. [261699]

Maria Eagle: I am aware of the interesting research undertaken by Cardiff university's Professor Jonathan Shepherd indicating a link between large-scale sporting events, alcohol consumption and domestic violence. The Government have no plans to commission additional research at this time.

I applaud the recent launch of the Wales tackles domestic abuse campaign to coincide with the Six Nations Championships. It echoes our message that violence against women and girls is unacceptable whatever the context and whatever the circumstances.

Equality Bill

7. **Mr. Sharma:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what provision she plans to make in the Equality Bill for the use of positive action to redress inequalities at work. [261700]

Maria Eagle: The Equality Bill will broaden the range of voluntary positive action measures which can be taken by employers or service providers to the full extent allowed by European law.

For example, employers will, in some circumstances, be able to take under-representation or disadvantage into account when selecting for appointment or promotion between two or more equally suitable candidates, if they choose to do so.

The new provisions will be backed by comprehensive and authoritative guidance from the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

Economic Downturn

8. **Anne Moffat:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what support the Government are giving to women affected by the economic downturn. [261701]

Maria Eagle: We are providing new training for women and men who have been out of work for six months. We are investing £15 million in skills development and support for women. We are funding 35,000 more apprentices. We are providing help with mortgages and extending the right to request flexible working from this April. The booklet Real Help Now for Women, published this week, signposts women towards a full range of support that they and their families may need in the economic downturn.

Domestic, Violence, Crime and Victims Act

9. **Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality when the Government plan to bring into force section 12 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004. [261702]

Maria Eagle: Over the past 10 years we have transformed the way that the Criminal Justice System deals with domestic violence. Section 12 of the Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act 2004 will extend the courts' powers under the criminal provisions of the Protection from Harassment Act 1997 to enable them to impose restraining orders when sentencing for any offence or on acquittal. We are fully committed to implementation of section 12 in September 2009.

Gender Pay Gap

10. **Mr. Allen:** To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps the Government are taking to reduce the gender pay gap. [261703]

Maria Eagle: We want equal pay for women because women are of equal value. The forthcoming Equality Bill will include a number of measures to improve pay transparency. From April we are also extending the right to request flexible working to the parents of children up to 16, and the Equalities and Human Rights Commission is conducting a formal inquiry into the financial services sector, where the gender pay gap is 44.4 per cent.

Child Care Vouchers

Mary Creagh: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what steps the Government are taking to reduce the disincentive to provide childcare vouchers arising from employers' liability to pay for the cost of childcare vouchers in the last six months of maternity leave. [262238]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

No such steps are planned. The provision of childcare vouchers through the Employer Supported Childcare (ESC) scheme already offers significant rewards to employers. Employers offering ESC currently save £130 million in national insurance contributions each year, and an attractive package of benefits, of which childcare can be an important part, improves staff retention, ensures access to a wider recruitment pool, reduces absenteeism and leads to a more motivated workforce.

Consultants: Equality and Human Rights Commission

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much the Equality and Human Rights Commission spent on consultants in 2008-09; and what project each consultant was engaged to work on. [258974]

Maria Eagle: The Equality and Human Rights Commission expects to spend £420,000 on consultants in the 2008-09 financial year. The consultancy projects were focused on the Commission's organisational development and on ensuring EHRC had the necessary skills and means to deliver the Commission's new three year strategic plan. The plan itself is due to be published in April 2009.

Departmental Absenteeism

Mr. Scott: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many staff of her Office were recorded absent for non-medical reasons on *(a)* 2 February 2009 and *(b)* 3 February 2009; what estimate she has made of the (i) cost to her Office and (ii) number of working hours lost as a result of such absence; and what guidance has been issued to staff in respect of absence on those days. [260572]

Maria Eagle: 32 staff from the Government Equalities Office were absent due to non-medical reasons on 2 February 2009 and two staff were absent on 3 February 2009. Many were able to work from home once it was clear transport was disrupted, as access to departmental IT systems was unaffected. The total number of working hours lost was 245 and the cost for time lost is estimated at £5,060. For all absences the Department asks that staff notify their line manager by 10 am on the day of any change to their normal working pattern. When staff made contact they were asked to consider all transport options to enable them to attend the office but to take into account any personal safety issues.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many and what percentage of letters sent by the Government Equalities Office were given to *(a)* the Royal Mail and *(b)* another postal services provider for delivery in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [259983]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office does not have any arrangements of its own for postal services. GEO's staff and Ministers work, or have worked in buildings belonging to other Departments and have used the post arrangements set up by those host Departments. Letters from the GEO in the last 12 months have been sent via the arrangements set up by: Communities and Local Government, the Ministry of Justice, the Cabinet Office, the Attorney-General's Office, and the Department for Work and Pensions. GEO letters would be included within the totals for these other Departments and sent via the providers that they use.

Manpower: Equality and Human Rights Commission

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many staff the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) employs; what the EHRC staff costs are expected to be for 2008-09; how many staff the *(a)* Disability Rights Commission, *(b)* Equal Opportunities Commission and *(c)* Commission for Racial Equality employed in their last full year of existence; and what the staffing costs of each were in that year. [258986]

Maria Eagle: The Equality and Human Rights Commission has 514 members of staff. Projected staff costs for 2008-09 are £23,603,000.

The total number of staff employed by each of the legacy commissions in their last full year of existence for 2006-07, and the staffing costs of each in that year are set out as follows:

The Commission for Racial Equality employed 247 members of staff. Total staffing costs were £9,559,000.

The Equality Opportunities Commission employed 172 members of staff. Total staffing costs were £5,166,000.

The Disability Rights Commission employed 209 members of staff. Total staffing costs were £8,338,000.

Official Cars

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what cars are *(a)* owned, *(b)* leased, *(c)* hired and *(d)* otherwise regularly used by the Government Equalities Office, broken down by cubic capacity of engine. [250133]

Maria Eagle: The Ministers of the Government Equalities Office, Harriet Harman and Maria Eagle, make regular use of cars supplied by the Government Car and Despatch Agency. The cubic capacity of the engine for Harriet Harman's car is 1497cc; the cubic capacity of the engine of Maria Eagle's car is 1339cc. The Government Equalities Office itself does not own, lease or hire cars.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Civil Partners

Ms Buck: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many civil partnership ceremonies have been conducted in each English local authority area. [261863]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your request to ask the Secretary of State for Justice, how many civil partnership ceremonies have been conducted in each English local authority. (261863)

Statistics on the number of civil partnerships in the UK by area of formation for 2005 to 2007 are available online at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_population/Civil_Partnerships_Area.xls

Table 5 shows the numbers of civil partnerships by area of formation, year and sex. A copy of this table is attached. Statistics are available for the following types of area within England: Government Office Regions, counties, London boroughs, metropolitan districts and unitary authorities. A copy of the table is available in the Library of the House.

The figures in Table 5 relate only to civil partnerships taking place in the constituent countries of the UK. They do not include civil partnerships of UK residents taking place abroad but will include non UK residents who form a partnership in the UK. Figures for England and Wales are based on date of formation. Figures for Scotland and Northern Ireland are based on date of registration. Data are based on area of formation and not area of residence.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which ICT projects the Cabinet Office initiated and abandoned before completion in each year since 1997; what costs were incurred in each project; who the contractors for each were; on what date each was *(a)* commenced and *(b)* abandoned; and if he will make a statement. [251388]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office initiated one major IT project that was cancelled prior to completion in the last six years. For information regarding this project I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Bridgwater (Mr. Liddell-Grainger) on 14 December 2005, *Official Report*, columns 2057-58W, by the then Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Mr. Murphy).

Departmental Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which external organisations the Cabinet Office has engaged to provide training for fast stream civil service staff in the last three years; and how many civil servants in the Cabinet Office have participated in provision of training for external organisations in that period. [252229]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office does not arrange training for members of the civil service fast stream programme. Each Department is responsible for determining training and development arrangements for its own fast streamers. There is no central co-ordination or record of fast stream training civil service-wide.

The Cabinet Office does however offer training for the fast streamers it employs directly. The Department currently employs 14 fast streamers. All these fast streamers have participated in training provided by external providers in the last three years. The majority of fast stream training is provided by the National School of Government. Other training providers are on an occasional basis, within Government procurement guidelines.

Departmental Vacancies

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many applications were received in response to Cabinet Office vacancy notice REC/08/169 for a front-of-house assistant. [258365]

Mr. Watson: All Cabinet Office recruitment is carried out in line with the principle of fair and open competition on merit in line with the civil service commissioners' recruitment code.

Employment

Ms Keeble: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women were in (i) full-time and (ii) part-time employment in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available. [262427]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many (a) men and (b) women were in (i) full-time and (ii) part-time employment in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available. [262427]

The requested information is shown in the attached table. This information is updated monthly as part of the Labour Market Statistics First Release and can be found on the Office for National Statistics website at the following address.

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/OnlineProducts/LMS_FR_HS.asp

The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

People aged 16 and over in employment by sex and working pattern[1]. Three month rolling periods, November 2007-January 2008 to October-December 2008, United Kingdom, seasonally adjusted

Thousand

	People		*Men*		*Women*	
Period	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*	*Full-time*	*Part-time*
November to January 2008	21,946	7,508	14,119	1,798	7,827	5,710
December to February 2008	21,996	7,498	14,141	1,789	7,855	5,709
January to March 2008	22,003	7,497	14,158	1,790	7,845	5,707
February to April 2008	22,009	7,497	14,164	1,795	7,846	5,701
March to May 2008	22,062	7,479	14,178	1,775	7,884	5,704
April to June 2008	22,013	7,492	14,132	1,805	7,881	5,687
May to July 2008	22,002	7,490	14,101	1,820	7,901	5,670
June to August 2008	21,910	7,509	14,029	1,838	7,881	5,671
July to September 2008	21,908	7,499	14,029	1,834	7,879	5,666
August to October 2008	21,880	7,497	13,983	1,845	7,897	5,652
September to November 2008	21,821	7,572	13,993	1,846	7,828	5,726
October to December 2008	21,829	7,532	13,969	1,860	7,860	5,672

[1] Full-time and part-time employment is based on respondents' self-classification.

Note:
It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc).

Source:
Labour Force Survey

Government Departments: Trade Union Officials

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what *(a)* guidance and *(b)* advice the (i) Cabinet Office and (ii) Cabinet Secretary has provided to Government departments on the provision of departmental office space to trade unions for union representatives to use for union activities. [258603]

Mr. Watson: No guidance or advice has been issued by the Cabinet Office to Departments.

Learning Disability: Expenditure

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what proportion of expenditure on learning disability services from the public purse was funded by central Government in the last financial year for which figures are available. [260530]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

It is not possible to say what proportion of expenditure was spent on learning disability services from the public purse funded by central Government in the last financial year. This is because Government expenditure on adult social care funding is part of a larger sum of money given by Government to councils and it is the responsibility of individual councils to determine how these funds are allocated between different local priorities, including adult social care.

Council services are funded from three different sources:

the formula grant distributed by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) to each council;

the council's ability to raise revenue through council tax and making local means tested charges for services; and

by specific grant allocation from the Department of Health and other Government Departments.

Non-departmental Public Bodies: Costs

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the total cost of non-departmental public bodies was in *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09 to date. [262048]

Mr. Watson: Information on funding and expenditure of non-departmental public bodies for 2006-07 and 2007-08 is published in the Cabinet Office annual publication "Public Bodies". Copies of "Public Bodies" are available in the Libraries of the House and can be downloaded from:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/public/bodies.asp

Information for 2008-09 will be published in due course.

Stockley House: Empty Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the estimated cost in empty property business rates for the vacant property recorded on the e-PIMS database at *(a)* Stockley House and *(b)* the Emergency Planning College is in 2008-09. [258539]

Kevin Brennan: The business rates associated with the vacant space at Stockley House and the Emergency Planning College in 2008-09 were £88,438 and £1,346 respectively.

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which trade unions are recognised in the Cabinet Office. [262080]

Mr. Watson: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave on 25 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1185W, to the hon. Member for Chichester (Mr. Tyrie).

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children: Bed And Breakfast Accommodation

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children under 16 have been recorded as living in bed and breakfast accommodation in each of the last five years; and what steps are being taken to reduce the number of children in such accommodation. [261042]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1225W, which gives a national estimate of the number of children in bed and breakfast-style temporary accommodation under homelessness legislation as at the end of September 2008, and steps that are being taken to reduce that number. The September 2008 quarter was the first for which the response rate and quality of data reported at local authority level was sufficiently high to produce a national estimate, so national figures for previous years are not available.

Children: Databases

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the ContactPoint children's database *(a)* is fully accredited to Government standards and *(b)* has undergone a privacy impact assessment. [258414]

Beverley Hughes: In response to part *(a)* of the question, ContactPoint is designed, built, operated and managed to HM Government standards for security and complies with the strict controls imposed by HM Government security policy. Data contained within the system are made available only to authorised users who have been subject to vetting and have completed mandatory training. Organisations that provide data or require access to ContactPoint must meet strict system accreditation requirements.

We have developed an ongoing systematic engagement of children, young people and parents, both at national and local levels, throughout the development and implementation of ContactPoint to ensure that any concerns about privacy were addressed.

We have sought to understand the views of children and young people, parents and carers, using a variety of methods, including:

directly seeking the views of children and young people from a wide range of backgrounds, facilitated by independent specialists in this field;

reviewing a wide body of independent research about the views of children and young people;

understanding the experiences of local authority trailblazers who developed local 'pilot' systems and who consulted with children, young people, parents and carers; and

engaging children, young people, parents and carers in a number of public consultations since 2003.

The views of children, young people, parents and carers have played, and continue to play, an important role in the development and implementation of ContactPoint.

This work has shown that, in general, children and young people understand the benefits of ContactPoint. Understandably, they want reassurance that the system will be secure and accurate; that practitioners will use their information appropriately and respect their privacy, and that access to ContactPoint will be limited to those who need it to do their job.

We have developed materials to help inform children, young people, parents and carers them about ContactPoint. These materials take into account Fair Processing Notice obligations under the Data Protection Act 1998. These materials are being distributed through a range of channels, national and local, which include direct mailing to households (where practicable), at points of service and public areas (e.g., libraries), on websites and through the media.

In addition, ContactPoint has been, and continues to be, subject to regular risk reviews, including the consideration of risks to privacy.

Children: Day Care

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1058-62W, on children's day care, how many childcare settings have closed in each quarter in 2008-09. [260031]

Beverley Hughes: The available information is shown in the table.

Due to changes in legislation as at 1 September 2008 new categories have been introduced for the collection of child care data and the current categories have ceased to exist. The latest Ofsted figures for a full quarter were published in June 2008. Ofsted are currently reviewing how these data will be published in the future.

Number and percentage of childcare providers that have opened and closed[1] position as at each quarter, England 2008

		Childminders		Full day care		Out of school day care[2]	
		Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
January-March 2008	Opened	2,200	3.3	550	3.9	450	4.2
	Closed	3,300	5.0	420	2.9	480	4.5
April-June 2008	Opened	2,200	3.4	520	3.6	420	3.9
	Closed	2,500	3.9	370	2.6	420	3.9

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 if under 100, and to the nearest 100 if over 100.
[2] Out of school day care figures may not include services in extended schools as OFSTED data only include providers that have to register separately.
Source:
Ofsted

Children: Protection

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what guidance his Department has issued to *(a)* Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council and *(b)* the Mayor of Doncaster on their responsibilities for child protection issues; [249161]

(2) what the responsibility is of the Mayor of Doncaster for child protection policy and practice in that area. [248908]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 19 January 2009]:* It is the local authority as a whole that is legally responsible for the discharge of its statutory functions, regardless of the arrangements by which the authority decides to discharge those functions and, in particular, whether the authority is led by a directly elected Mayor. While the elected Mayor is politically accountable—alongside the Lead Member for Children's Services—for the way in which the authority discharges its statutory functions for child protection, he or she is not legally responsible for the discharge of those functions.

Doncaster metropolitan borough council has been issued with the same guidance as all organisations and individuals with responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. This is contained principally within 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (2006):

http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/_files/AE53C8F9D7AEB1B23E403514A6C1B17D.pdf

In addition, local authorities that are children's services authorities, including Doncaster, have a duty under section 11 of the Children Act 2004 to ensure that their functions are discharged with regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Specific guidance for these organisations about their duty under section 11 is contained in 'Making Arrangements to Safeguard and Promote the Welfare of Children' (2005):

http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/resources-and-practice/IG00042/

Children: Social Services

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 25 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 802W, on children: local services, what methodology was used to allocate the funds between local authorities. [260477]

Beverley Hughes: Local authorities' grant allocations have been calculated by applying the children's social care relative needs formula, details of which can be found at the following website:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/0809/methkid.pdf

Children's Centres: Standards

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of children's centres' nurseries were deemed *(a)* excellent, *(b)* good, *(c)* satisfactory and *(d)* inadequate by Ofsted in each year since Ofsted was established. [252068]

Beverley Hughes: These are matters for Ofsted. The Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and copies of her replies have been placed in the Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 9 February 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

As you will be aware, Ofsted was established in 1992, but the first children's centres were only designated from June 2003, with many developing from Sure Start Local Programmes and Early Excellence Centres. The services offered by Children's Centres varies but may include integrated early education and childcare. This means that a Children's Centre may include a provision registered by Ofsted (day care and childcare on non-domestic premises) or a maintained school which will be inspected by Ofsted. However, we do not identify if childcare providers or schools are part of a Children's Centre on our databases.

The figures below should be treated with some care. To produce these we have cross-referenced the postcodes of Sure Start Children's Centres, according to the DCSF Sure Start database (which is updated by local authorities), with those of the childcare providers and nursery schools on our records. This matching is unlikely to be fully accurate. A Sure Start Children's Centre may have the same post code as a childcare setting while not being the same establishment.

The following tables A and B show the number and proportion of registered childcare providers with a postcode match to a Sure Start Children's Centre receiving each overall quality grade following an Ofsted inspection from 1 April 2003 to 31 August 2008. Table C shows the number and proportion of registered childcare providers with a postcode match to a Sure Start Children's Centre receiving each overall quality grade following an Ofsted inspection from 1 September 2008 (when the early years foundation stage was introduced) to 31 December 2008, which are the latest data available on childcare inspections. Between 1 April 2003 and 31 March 2005, the early years inspection framework was based on the Children Act 1989, and used a three-point scale, ranging from good to unsatisfactory. Between 1 April 2005 and 31 August 2008, the inspection framework (commonly known as the Inspecting Outcomes for Children framework) used a four-point scale, ranging from outstanding to inadequate. The early years foundation stage inspection framework, introduced on 1 September 2008, uses a similar four-point scale.

The following tables D and E show the number and proportion of nursery schools receiving each overall effectiveness grade following an Ofsted inspection from 1 September 2003 to the 31 August 2008, which are the latest data available on school inspection outcomes. Under the previous school inspection framework (commonly known as Section 10), this judgment was made using a seven point scale: excellent, very good, good, satisfactory, unsatisfactory, poor and very poor. Since September 2005, the judgment has been made under the current school inspection framework (commonly known as Section 5) using a four point scale: outstanding, good, satisfactory and inadequate.

It is not possible to operate a simple read-across approach between frameworks, so simple comparisons are not possible. Inspectors do not make reference to, or comparisons with, different inspection frameworks. Ofsted's criteria for making inspection judgments about childcare and schools are clearly set out in our inspection guidance.

Please note that that the selection of provision for inspection each year is not random. We select providers for inspection each year based on a number of factors, including the period since their last inspection and the grade awarded them at that inspection. Therefore, these figures should not be used to make judgments about the standards of national provision.

A copy of this reply has been sent to right hon. Beverley Hughes MP, Minister of State for Children, Young People and Families, and to right hon. Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Table A: Judgments on the overall quality grades from inspections of registered childcare that have a postcode match with identified sure start centres, between 1 April 2003 and 31 March 2005

	Good		*Satisfactory*		*Unsatisfactory*		
Time Period	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Total number of providers*
1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004	17	68	8	32	0	0	25
1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005	214	72	81	27	3	1	298

Table B: Judgments on the overall quality grades from inspections of registered childcare that have a postcode match with identified sure start centres, between 1 April 2005 and 31 August 2008

	Outstanding		*Good*		*Satisfactory*		*Inadequate*		
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Total number of providers*
1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006	12	3	209	56	127	34	24	6	372
1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007	23	3	452	60	249	33	25	3	749
1 April 2007 to 31 August 2008	51	4	821	63	383	29	46	4	1,301

Table C: Judgments on the overall quality grades from inspections of registered childcare that have a postcode match with identified sure start centres, between 1 September 2008 and 31 December 2008

	Outstanding		Good		Satisfactory		Inadequate		
Time period	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Total number of providers
1 September 2008 to 31 December 2008	8	6	75	60	37	29	6	5	126

Table D: Judgments on the overall effectiveness grades from inspections of nursery schools that have a postcode match with identified sure start centres, between 1 September 2003 and 31 August 2005

Time period	Number of nursery schools	Inspection outcome
1 September 2003 to 31 August 2004	1	Excellent
	1	Good
1 September 2004 to 31 August 2005	1	Excellent
	1	Very Good
	1	Good

Table E: Judgments on the overall effectiveness grades from inspections of nursery schools that have a postcode match with identified sure start centres, between 1 September 2005 and 31 August 2008

	Outstanding		Good		Satisfactory		Inadequate		
Time period	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Total number of providers
1 September 2005 to 31 December 2006[1]	8	33	15	63	1	4	0	0	24
1 September 2006 to 31 August 2007	24	41	30	51	5	8	0	0	59
1 September 2007 to 31 August 2008	21	38	34	61	1	2	0	0	56

[1] Includes two inspections carried out in the 2004-05 academic year as pilots for the inspection framework introduced in September 2005.

Departmental Internet

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many young people were involved in the determination of the content of each myplace application. [261838]

Beverley Hughes: All "myplace" projects have demonstrated that young people, particularly disadvantaged young people, have been and will be active participants in the design, development and management of the new facility.

The Big Lottery Fund reports that it would be a disproportionate cost to provide specific information about how many young people were involved in consultations on each of "myplace" projects; the dates the consultations took place; and how many young people are directly involved in the management of each of the projects.

The Big Lottery Fund is able to report that "myplace" projects have engaged thousands of young people across the country through a variety of methods including local Youth Parliaments, councils or neighbourhood forums; through open consultation events, surveys and focus groups; and through their attendance at existing projects.

"myplace" projects have also demonstrated that young people will continue to influence directly the ongoing management of the new facility. Proposed approaches include the use of youth forums, young people sitting directly on management committees, establishing shadow youth boards, appointing a young person as the project's assistant director, and passing the governance of the whole project over to young people through the creation of a youth-led trust.

English Language: Primary Education

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate his Department has made of the percentage of children entering primary school for whom English will be a second or other language in each of the next five years. [255721]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Such estimates are not available.

The latest information about the number of pupils whose first language is known or believed to be other than English were published as table B10 in a statistical first release at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000786/index.shtml

Family Planning: Finance

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what grants his Department made to *(a)* Brook, *(b)* the Family

Planning Association, *(c)* Marie Stopes International, *(d)* the British Pregnancy Advisory Service and *(e)* Education for Choice in the last year; how much in grant funding is planned for each in the next two years; what the (i) monetary value and (ii) purpose of each such grant is; and if he will make a statement. [261598]

Beverley Hughes: No funding has been allocated to Marie Stopes International, the British Pregnancy Advisory Service, or Education for Choice by this Department in the 2008/09 financial year.

Funding was allocated to Brook, and FPA in 2008/09 from the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy budget, as set out in the following table:

Organisation	*Purpose*	*Amount of funding (£000)*
Brook	To develop guidance for local authorities and PCTs on the delivery of condom distribution schemes, and to produce posters to alert young people to the peak in unplanned pregnancies that occurs each year in December and January	50
FPA	To pilot a version of the 'Speakeasy' programme for both parents and young people (the main Speakeasy programme is aimed at parents only), and run a speakeasy 'taster' session for parents working in DCSF	26
Total		76

Final decisions on the allocation of the teenage pregnancy budget for 2009/10 and 2010/11 have not yet been finalised.

In addition, third sector organisations were invited to submit bids for funding from the Children, Young People and Families (CYPF) Grant programme. Following an open competition, funding was allocated to:

Education for Choice (£75,000 over two years): to provide training to members of the children's work force, to enable them to provide impartial advice and support to young people facing an unplanned pregnancy, including support to avoid repeat conceptions; and

FPA (£530,000 over two years): to extend delivery of the 'Speakeasy' programme that builds the skills and confidence of parents so that they are better able to talk to their children about sex and relationships.

Improving Information Sharing and Management Programme

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the expenditure on the Improving Information Sharing and Management programme *(a)* has been since its inception and *(b)* is projected to be over the next five years. [260938]

Beverley Hughes: The Improving Information Sharing and Management (IISaM) Programme was established in January 2008, bringing together, ContactPoint, E-CAF (the online version of the Common Assessment Framework), the Integrated Children's System (ICS) and the Client Case Information System (CCIS). Since its inception, expenditure on the IISAM Programme to 31 March 2009, is forecast to be £131.5 million.

Expenditure on the IISaM Programme over the next five years, to 2013-14, is projected to be £334.2 million.

Pre-School Education

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 28 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 657W, on pre-school education: teaching, which programmes are funded by the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant; how much has been spent on the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant in each year for which records are available; and how much is forecast to be spent in each financial year up to the end of the 2010-11 financial year. [260153]

Beverley Hughes: The Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant funding is not provided for specific programmes for the training of childcare staff but is provided in ring-fenced blocks to allow local authorities to respond to their local priorities.

Funding to improve the quality of practice and the capability of the workforce in early years settings is provided to Local Authorities within the outcomes, quality and inclusion strand of the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Grant.

The funding allocated for outcomes quality and inclusion for the CSR period April 2008 to March 2011 is shown in the following table.

	Outcomes, quality and inclusion allocation (£)
2008/09	127,155,704
2009/10	147,235,934
2010/11	164,148,541
Total	438,540,259

While the outcomes, quality and inclusion categorisation of funding was introduced in April 2008 the Department has records of local authority spend under the broadly analogous category of workforce development from April 2004, as shown in the following table[1].

[1] Not all audits have been received from the local authorities for 2007/08 and 2006/07. For those programmes with outstanding audits spend figures have been taken from unaudited returns. Where these are unavailable an average spend rate has been applied to their allocation to produce a likely spend. In 2005/06 seven local authorities were in local area agreements, 26 in 2006/07 and 24 in 2007/08. No spend for these authorities is available as they were not required to submit statements of spend to the Department.

	Workforce development spend (£)
2007/08	63,700,942
2006/07	54,527,678
2005/06	73,782,315
2004/05	46,480,478

Schools: Standards

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of small schools Ofsted judged to be *(a)* outstanding, *(b)* good, *(c)* satisfactory and *(d)* inadequate in each of the last 10 years. [258284]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 2 March 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) defines a small primary school as one with 100 pupils or fewer, while a small secondary school has 600 pupils or fewer, and these definitions are used in this response. Data identifying the total number of pupils on a school's roll in each academic year are derived from the DCSF Annual School Census. Schools for which the number of pupils on roll is not available have been excluded from this analysis.

Ofsted introduced a judgement of schools' overall effectiveness in January 2000, and this response covers data since that point. Under the school inspection frameworks used between January 2000 and August 2005 (commonly known as Section 10), the school's overall effectiveness judgement was made using a seven point scale: excellent, very good, good, satisfactory, unsatisfactory, poor and very poor. Since September 2005, the overall effectiveness judgement has been made under the current school inspection framework (commonly known as Section 5) using a four point scale: outstanding, good, satisfactory and inadequate. Tables A to D show the percentages of schools by grade for each academic year since January 2000.

It is not possible to operate a simple read-across approach from a seven- to a four-point scale. Ofsted's criteria for making inspection judgements about schools are clearly set out in our inspection guidance, which are available on the Ofsted website at:

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Guidance-for-inspectors-of-schools-conducting-the-inspection/(language)/eng-GB

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Table A—Overall effectiveness in primary schools with 1-100 pupils inspected between January 2000 and 2004/05

		Overall effectiveness: percentage of schools inspected						
	Number of inspections	Excellent	Very good	Good	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Poor	Very poor
January to August 2000	338	0	19	40	23	8	1	0
2000-01	425	1	18	47	29	3	1	0
2001-02	454	1	19	46	29	5	1	0
2002-03	423	1	17	49	26	6	1	0
2003-04	458	1	13	52	28	5	1	0
2004-05	332	1	16	47	29	5	1	0

Note:
Percentages are rounded and do not always add exactly to 100

Table B—Overall effectiveness in primary schools with 1-100 pupils inspected in each academic year since 2005/06

		Overall effectiveness: percentage of schools inspected			
	Number of inspections	Outstanding	Good	Satisfactory	Inadequate
2005-06	629	6	55	35	4
2006-07	989	10	53	34	2
2007-08	845	10	59	29	2

Table C—Overall effectiveness in secondary schools with 1-600 pupils inspected in each academic year between January 2000 and 2004/05

		Overall effectiveness: percentage of schools inspected						
	Number of inspections	Excellent	Very good	Good	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Poor	Very poor
January to August 2000	61	0	16	57	21	3	2	0
2000-01	134	0	7	57	30	5	1	0
200-02	91	0	11	34	41	11	1	0
2002-03	98	0	14	55	22	5	3	1
2003-04	105	0	13	53	22	10	2	0
2004-05	70	0	7	53	30	9	1	0

Table D—Overall effectiveness in secondary schools with 1-600 pupils inspected in each academic year since 2005/06

		Overall effectiveness: percentage of schools inspected			
	Number of school inspections	Outstanding	Good	Satisfactory	Inadequate
2005-06	157	3	39	45	13
2006-07	212	9	33	45	13
2007-08	180	8	39	42	10

Note:
Percentages are rounded and do not always add exactly to 100

Youth Services: Finance

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many myplace projects his Department has funded in *(a)* cities and *(b)* coalfield communities. [260669]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 4 March 2009]:* To date, myplace funding of £240 million has been awarded to 62 projects. A total number of 31 projects worth £122.4 million are in cities and three projects worth £13.1 million are in coalfield areas.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Adult Education

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many additional full-time equivalent places he has made available in further education colleges for post-19 adult education and training in each year from 2009-10 to 2011-12. [261856]

Mr. Simon: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) grant letter 2009-10 (18 November 2009) set out planned investment in adults and associated learner numbers for 2008/09 and 2009/10.

Investment through the LSC is expected to support around 3.4 million adult learners in 2008/09 and 3.3 million learners in 2009/10 across all funding routes. These are not expressed as full-time equivalents as this method of calculating the volume of learning is not applicable for all funding routes.

We are committed to ensuring that public investment supports adults to gain skills necessary to enter and progress into sustainable employment and further learning. This strategy has seen record numbers of learners participate and achieve qualifications that provide these skills. Reprioritisation of funding towards these priorities and away from high numbers of shorter courses will affect the total number of LSC-funded adult learners.

Learner number figures are based on national assumptions of what our investment could deliver in each of the funding routes. The volume and level of courses delivered will follow demand. It is therefore not possible to say how many of these places will be delivered in further education colleges over these years.

Planned budgets for 2010-11 with associated learner numbers will be confirmed towards the end of the year in the normal way. Budgets for 2011-12 and beyond will be agreed as part of the next spending review.

Apprentices

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* private and *(b)* local authority-sponsored apprenticeships have started in (i) England and (ii) each English region in each year since 2005; and how many of each are projected to start in (A) England and (B) each English region in 2009-10. [260107]

Mr. Simon: Table 1 shows the percentage of LSC-funded apprenticeship starts in England in 2005/06 to 2007/08 at each type of provider. It is not possible to specify exactly the number of apprenticeships with a private provider. Numbers in many categories are too small to provide regional level analysis.

Projections on apprenticeship volumes are available at national level only and are not available by provider type.

Table 1: Percentage of apprenticeship starts in an academic year by provider type, 2005/06 to 2007/08

Provider type	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*Percentage 2007/08*
Chamber of Commerce/ Trade	1.3	1.1	0.7
Charitable	4.8	4.6	7.2
City Technology College	—	—	—
External Institution	0.1	0.2	—
General FE College incl Tertiary	22.1	23.3	21.5
Higher Education Organisation	0.2	0.2	0.2
Independent school or college	—	—	—
Local Authority	0.5	0.4	0.1
Local Education Authority (LEA)	1.4	1.4	1.5
Non-Charitable	—	—	—
Organisation in Business in its own right	62.2	59.5	55.3
Other Local Authority	0.3	0.1	0.3
Other Private Organisation	3.2	5.1	6.0
Other Public Organisation	2.3	2.8	6.0
Other Voluntary Organisation	—	—	—
Sixth form college	0.2	0.2	0.1
Special college—Agriculture and horticulture	1.3	1.1	1.0
Special college—Art, design and performing arts	—	—	—
Unknown	—	—	—
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number of apprenticeship starts	175,000	184,400	224,800

'—' indicates a figure of 0 per cent. when rounded.

Notes:
1. Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 0.1 per cent.

Source:
WBL ILR

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what support is available for apprentices whose employer terminates their contract before they have completed their apprenticeship. [261858]

Mr. Simon: I am pleased apprenticeship completion rates are improving. In 2007/08 we saw 64 per cent. of apprentices successfully completing their apprenticeship up from 37 per cent. in 2004/05, and since 1997 we have witnessed a renaissance in apprenticeships from a low point of 65,000 to a record 225,000 apprenticeship starts in 2007/08.

We have established a matching service to help those apprentices in the construction sector at risk of redundancy to find alternative employment and to complete their apprenticeship. We are currently working with the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to explore how this approach

might be extended to other sectors. More generally, providers and the LSC have procedures to advise and relocate apprentices in cases where providers or employers fail, to help ensure that they are able to continue in work and complete their apprenticeship. Where alternative work is not available local advice agencies working with training providers and colleges will help find other training opportunities. Such arrangements are being used, for example, to help former Woolworth apprentices complete their apprenticeship framework and find alternative employment or training.

The £140 million package announced by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister in January for an additional 35,000 apprenticeship places will help fund new provision in both the public and private sectors, and will extend the opportunities available to people facing redundancy. This package will further boost the number of people starting an apprenticeship.

Apprentices: Construction

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people started apprenticeships in the construction industry in the most recent year for which figures are available. [259129]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 2 March 2009]:* Table 1 following shows the number of apprenticeship starts in construction in 2007/08. There were 21,000 apprenticeship starts in construction frameworks in 2007/08, up from 15,200 in 2003/04, a 38 per cent. increase.

Table 1: Apprenticeship starts in construction, 2007/08

Sector framework	*Number of starts*
Construction	20,400
Engineering Construction	600
Total	21,000

Notes:
1. Volumes are rounded to the nearest 100, and may not add up to the total.
2. Frameworks included in construction are:
107—Engineering Construction
116—Construction
Source:
WBL ILR 2007/08

The Government are committed to rebuilding apprenticeships. Since 1997 we have witnessed a renaissance in apprenticeships from a low point of 65,000 to a record 225,000 apprenticeship starts in 2007/08. Completion rates are also at a record high with 64 per cent. successfully completing an apprenticeship up from 37 per cent. in 2004/05.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many public consultations his Department has conducted in the last 12 months; how long each consultation was open for; how many responses were received in each case; and what the cost of conducting each consultation was. [259575]

Mr. Simon: In 2008 the Department for Innovation Universities and Skills conducted 13 consultations. On average each consultation was open for 12.5 weeks with an average of 583 responses received per consultation. The costs of conducting each consultation vary depending on the consultation route taken. It is not possible to provide the cost of conducting each one as this would incur disproportionate public expense.

Education: Finance

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what plans has he to make additional funding available to further education colleges and universities for the re-skilling of individuals who hold a level three or level four qualification. [261442]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 9 March 2009]:* Alongside existing programmes and training provision, we have announced new measures to provide employment-focused training for people facing or at risk of redundancy, as well as those who have been out of work for a longer period of time. This includes: a package of £158 million to support 40,000 new employment-focussed training places for those at risk of redundancy; £83 million to support 75,000 extra further education places for the long-term unemployed; and £140 million to support 35,000 additional apprenticeship places. The amount of funding that will be available to further education colleges for this training will depend on demand and skills needs of individuals rather than being linked to prior attainment.

Within our existing entitlements, learners who already have a qualification at level 3 or level 4 may be able to access repeat qualifications, however the learner or their employer may be asked to make a contribution towards the cost of the course. Funding for repeat qualifications may be available through the Adult Learner Responsive or Employer Responsive route. In particular, Sector Compacts enable more flexible use of Train to Gain funding for retraining in subjects deemed a priority for a specific sectors.

In late January 2009, the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) announced their Economic Challenge Investment Fund, a £50 million fund (£25 million from HEFCE matched with £25 million from individual higher education institutions) to provide help for individuals and businesses during these difficult times. This will help universities and colleges to provide tailored training, development and professional support to vulnerable groups, including those who want to re-skill in strategically important and vulnerable subjects.

Empty Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the estimated cost in empty property business rates for the vacant properties recorded on the e-PIMS database owned by his Department is in 2008-09. [258525]

Mr. Simon: DIUS does not own any vacant property and therefore does not expect to pay any empty property business rates in April 2008 to March 2009.

Train to Gain Programme: Finance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills with reference to the Pre-Budget Report 2008, whether the extension of the Train to Gain scheme will be funded from an existing spending programme. [261654]

Mr. Simon: The 2009-10 grant letter to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) sets out the budget for Train to Gain. Train to Gain is a growing programme. This will result in a planned budget increase for Train to Gain programme from £657 million in 2008-09 to £925 million in 2009-10, which will support around 949,000 learners. The Government Investment Strategy 2009-10, published last November, set out the planned aggregate growth in the LSC's budget and also the priorities set within that.

The £350 million pre-Budget report announcement is the growth over the next two years and will be focussed on small and medium-sized enterprises to help them get the training that they need.

Train to Gain is the key service for supporting employers to invest in the future productivity and profitability of their businesses by investing in the skills of their employees. Train to Gain offers quality-assured, impartial advice from skills brokers, to help identify the business's skills needs at all levels and make the right, informed choices.

Unemployment: Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of young people in each *(a)* town, *(b)* ward and *(c)* lower layer super output area of the principal seaside towns in England are not in education, employment or training. [257335]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* Details of young people not in employment, education or training are not available for small geographical regions such as principal seaside towns, wards and lower layer super output areas. The smallest geographical area for which these numbers are available is by local education authority.

Tables 1 and 2 show estimates of the numbers and percentages of people aged[1] 16 to 24 not in education, employment or training (NEET) for local education authorities (LEAs) in England. These are the most recent estimates are from the Annual Population Survey (APS); data for 2008 are not yet available. The tables have been placed in the House Libraries.

Numbers have been rounded to the nearest thousand as sample sizes for each local education authority are small and will be affected by sampling variability. This will also affect the comparability of data for each year, as most of the differences in figures for different years are statistically insignificant.

[1] Age used is the respondent's academic age, which is defined as their age at the preceding 31 August.

Vocational Training

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many learner places funded by the Learning and Skills Council there were in each *(a)* local authority area and *(b)* subject area in each year since 2003-04. [258578]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 4 March 2009]:* For the number of learner places funded by the Learning and Skills Council in each subject area, I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 464W.

Tables 1-4 show the number of learner enrolments/starts by local authority which were funded by the Learning and Skills Council, from 2004/05 to 2007/08 academic year. Data cannot be provided on a comparable basis for 2003/04.

Between 2004/05 and 2007/08, there was a significant shift in the types of further education courses that attracted public funding. Realignment of funding towards longer courses offering adults the greatest opportunity to gain the skills to enter and progress in sustained employment has necessarily led to a decrease in the overall number of LSC funded learners over this period.

However, it cannot be assumed that these courses and learners no longer exist—where a course no longer attracts public funding, we expect colleges and providers to continue to offer those courses, at full cost, in response to demand.

A copy of these tables has been provided and the relevant data will be placed in the Libraries.

Vocational Training: Luton

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 29 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 789W, on employment-related skills, how much of the funding allocated to improve the employment-related skills of people with low skills he expects to be spent in Luton. [261758]

Mr. Simon: The recently announced funding to support employment-focused training for people facing or at risk of redundancy, as well as those who have been out of work for a longer period of time, will be spent in line with demand and skills needs. It is therefore not possible to say how much funding will be spent in a given geographical area at this point in time.

TRANSPORT

Concessionary Bus Fares Scheme

8. **Tim Farron:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the cost to local authorities to date of providing the national concessionary bus fares scheme. [261711]

Paul Clark: Additional funding of £212 million has been provided to local authorities this year to cover the extra cost of the new concession. It is estimated that this will bring the total spending on concessionary fares to approximately £1 billion this year. The Government are confident that there is sufficient funding in total for statutory concessionary fares.

15. **Mr. Jack:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of reimbursement rates to local authorities for their expenditure under the national concessionary bus fares scheme; and if he will make a statement. [261718]

Paul Clark: The Government provide funding to local authorities to allow them to reimburse bus operators for concessionary travel. This funding now totals around £1 billion per annum and the Government are confident that there is sufficient funding in total for statutory concessionary fares. The rates set by local authorities for reimbursing bus operators are a matter for them.

Local Transport Plans

9. **Mr. Heathcoat-Amory:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will amend his Department's criteria for the allocation of capital expenditure under local transport plans to provide for greater devolution of responsibilities to local government. [261712]

Paul Clark: Most Department for Transport capital funding to local authorities is distributed through formulae developed with local government. It is not ring-fenced. The remaining funding is generally for specific major schemes. Regional bodies and local authorities can now advise Ministers on changing the allocation of all this funding within the region.

Motorway Widening Scheme

10. **Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which sections of the M4 and M5 in the Bristol area he plans to include in the hard shoulder motorway widening scheme. [261713]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We plan to implement hard shoulder running on the M4 between junctions 19 and 20 and on the M5 between junctions 15 and 17. The scheme will address congestion and unreliable journey times on this important section of the motorway network near Bristol.

Active Traffic Management Systems

11. **Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to extend the use of active traffic management systems across the country; and if he will make a statement. [261714]

Paul Clark: On 15 January 2009 we announced our plans for the Highways Agency's national roads programme in "Britain's Transport Infrastructure Motorways and Major Trunk Roads". This included over 520 lanes miles of additional capacity, of which, over 340 lane miles would be delivered by hard shoulder running. We also set out our strategy to apply managed motorways more widely across the core national motorway network over the next 10 to 15 years.

Railway Ticket Offices

12. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with train operating companies on changes to ticket office opening times at railway stations. [261715]

Paul Clark: Officials in the Department for Transport have recently discussed ticket office change proposals made by South West Trains, First Capital Connect, National Express East Anglia and National Express East Coast. Some of these are small changes and some just outline proposals.

Rail Franchises

13. **Damian Green:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with train operating companies on the commercial viability of their franchises in the current economic situation. [261716]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has regular discussions with train operating companies as part of the normal monitoring arrangements under our franchise agreements. This includes monitoring of the financial and operational performance of individual franchises.

Rail Network Capacity

14. **John Barrett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the capacity of the rail network. [261717]

Paul Clark: The Rail White Paper, which we published in July 2007, described the forecast growth in rail usage and sets out the enhancements in capacity, reliability and safety the Government seek. At the heart of our plans is the £10 billion that we have committed to spend on enhancing rail capacity between 2009 and 2014.

Young Drivers: Fatalities

16. **Laura Moffatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he plans to take to reduce the number of drivers under 25 years old who die in road accidents. [261719]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We identified young drivers as a key priority in the Road Safety Strategy review, published in 2007. While 17 per cent. fewer car drivers were killed in 2007 than in 2006 we are not complacent. We want new drivers to have the right attitude and skills to be safe drivers. On 7 May 2008, the Driving Standards Agency launched "Learning to Drive" consultation, which set out proposals for the reform of driver education, training and testing. The reforms will better prepare newly qualified drivers modern driving conditions.

Almost 7,000 consultation responses were received. These are being carefully analysed, and decisions will be announced as soon as possible.

East Midlands Line

17. **Mr. Betts:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to make a decision on the proposed electrification of the East Midlands Line. [261720]

Paul Clark: A decision on electrification of the Midland Main Line north of Bedford will be announced later this year.

National Forest Line

19. **David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received on the restoration of passenger services on the National Forest Line between Burton-on-Trent and Leicester; and if he will make a statement. [261722]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport receives many representations about re-opening railway lines across the country but since 1 January 2008, only one has solely focused on the re-opening of the National Forest Line.

Driving Instructors

20. **Willie Rennie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what measures are in place to ensure that registered sex offenders may not operate as driving instructors. [261723]

Jim Fitzpatrick: All approved driving instructors (ADIs) must satisfy the registrar that they are 'fit and proper' to have their name initially entered in the register and must continue to meet that requirement in order to remain registered. To evidence this they must provide enhanced level criminal record checks.

Hand Baggage: Airlines

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the merits of easing the restriction on the volume of liquids permissible in air passengers' hand baggage; and if he will make a statement. [261721]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We are working with international partners to develop technological solutions that enable a lifting of restrictions and current indications are that some technology could be available for deployment at EU airports in 2010. In the meantime the present restrictions must remain in place in order to address the real and serious threat from liquid explosives.

A15: Accidents

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the last death occurred in a road traffic accident on the A15 between Lincoln and the M180; and how many deaths have occurred on this road in each of the last five years. [261799]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of fatalities resulting from reported personal injury road accidents on the A15 between Lincoln and the M180 for each of the last five years are given in the following table:

	Number of fatalities
2003	2
2004	1
2005	6
2006	0
2007	0

The last fatal accident occurred in June 2005. Data for 2008 will be available at the end of June 2009.

Aviation: South East

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of maximum airspace capacity over London and the South East is currently used; and what contingency plans he has to *(a)* ration and *(b)* otherwise allocate airspace if demand should exceed supply. [261887]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 9 March 2009]:* Although airspace has a finite volume, available airspace capacity is not a constant—it varies according to the declared capacity of air traffic control units and airspace sectors as a function of time.

The central flow management unit (CFMU) at Eurocontrol, the European organisation for the safety of air navigation:

http://www.cfmu.eurocontrol.int/cfmu/public/subsitehomepage/homepage.html

provides an air traffic flow and capacity management service on behalf of air traffic services and airport operators across Europe before traffic is handled operationally by air traffic control. The CFMU has access to a database containing flight plan information on every aircraft that is planning to fly in European airspace and uses this information to meet its objectives of balancing demand and capacity, keeping delays to a minimum and avoiding congestion, bottlenecks and overload.

Consequently, airspace capacity management in the UK is an operational matter for the air traffic control provider, NATS. The following link to the NATS website provides an overview on traffic volumes handled by NATS from their various centres and flights handled at major UK airports:

http://www.nats.co.uk/text/47/operational and safety.html

Cycling: East Midlands

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many miles of cycle lanes have been introduced in each county in the East Midlands since 2001. [261752]

Paul Clark: This information is no longer collected centrally by the Department for Transport as part of our drive to reduce the burden upon local authorities in respect of the information we request annually from them.

However we do hold some historical information which is produced in the following table. The data are not verified by the Department.

Cycle lanes 2001-07

		Kilometres					
Highway authority	*GO region*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Derby City	GO-EM	0	0	1	1	1	1
Derbyshire (sole)	GO-EM	1	9	1	0	—	—
Leicester City	GO-EM	—	1	2	2	4	—
Leicestershire (Central)	GO-EM	15	4	6	7	1	—
Leicestershire (County)	GO-EM	19	14	3	2	7	5
Lincolnshire	GO-EM	11	8	4	1	9	3
Northamptonshire	GO-EM	0	1	0	1	1	0
Nottingham City (part of joint)	GO-EM	5	14	14	0	5	8
Nottinghamshire (Greater Notts part of joint)	GO-EM	0	0	1	2	2	0

Cycle lanes 2001-07

Highway authority	*GO region*	*Kilometres* 2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Nottinghamshire (North Notts)	GO-EM	2	0	1	12	1	4
Rutland	GO-EM	5	0	0	—	—	—

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the cost of implementing the flexible benefits project in the central units of his Department. [261593]

Mr. Hoon: It is estimated that there will be no material cost of introducing a flexible benefits scheme to the Department for Transport.

Departmental Manpower

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many employees of his Department have worked at First Class Partnership in each of the last 24 months; and what the Civil Service pay band of each is. [262299]

Mr. Hoon: No Department for Transport employees have been loaned or seconded to First Capital Partnership nor does the Department have any record of employees leaving to join First Class Partnerships in the last 24 months.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his Department's entertainment budget was in each of the last five years. [261107]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport does not have an entertainment budget. However, it does have divisional level hospitality budgets that cover refreshments for meetings, conferences, room bookings and other similar expenditure. To identify these lists centrally would be disproportionately expensive.

The Department adheres to the principles on the management of Public Money as set out in HM Treasury's handbook on Regularity and Propriety and has strict rules and cost limits on such expenditure. Where it is permissible, expenditure that could be classed as entertainment must be found from within the hospitality budgets.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what payments for *(a)* polling and *(b)* other services his Department has made to (i) Deborah Mattinson and (ii) Opinion Leader Research Limited since 31 December 2007; and if he will make a statement. [260988]

Mr. Hoon: No payments have been made by the Department to Deborah Mattinson or Opinion Leader Research Limited between 31 December 2007 and 3 March 2009.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what capital expenditure his Department plans to bring forward in the next 12 months. [261630]

Mr. Hoon: In November 2008 the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced, as part of his pre-Budget report, that £700 million of fiscal stimulus funding was being brought forward by the Department for Transport.

£400 million of this will be used by the Highways Agency in 2009-10 to bring forward high value schemes on the strategic roads network. This includes bringing forward by two years the start of construction for the scheme to dual the A46 from Newark to Widmerpool.

In addition the funding will allow us to bring forward work to strengthen hard shoulders in advance of the implementation of hard shoulder running as well as other high value structure and asset renewal projects. The exact schemes that will benefit will be specified in the Highways Agency's 2009-10 Business Plan.

The remaining £300 million is to be used for the procurement of diesel unit rolling stock as part of the Department's High Level Output Specification for the British Rail Network.

Departmental Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent by his Department on staff surveys in 2008; and which companies were contracted to carry out the surveys. [260943]

Mr. Hoon: The Department spent £35,805 on its annual staff survey in 2008. ORC were contracted to carry out the survey.

Driving Standards Agency: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 900W, on the Driving Standards Agency: alcoholic drinks, what the cost to his Department was of the wine served at each of the three conferences. [261449]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Driving Standards Agency spent the following on wine for each conference.

Conference	*Cost of alcohol provided exclusive of VAT (£)*
May Conference	2,068.30
June Conference 1	1,894.97
June Conference 2	2,111.54

Driving Tests

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people *(a)* took and *(b)* passed their driving test in (i) Chelmsford, (ii) Essex and (iii) the UK in each of the last five years. [261775]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of practical driving tests taken and passed in Chelmsford in each of the last five years for car, bike, lorry and bus categories are as follows:

Chelmsford

	Conducted	*Passed*	*Percentage pass*
Car			
2007-08	8,162	2,851	34.9
2006-07	8,906	2,911	32.7
2005-06	9,990	3,385	33.9
2004-05	7,430	2,653	35.7
2003-04	7,206	2,731	37.9
Bike			
2007-08	1,519	1,091	71.8
2006-07	1,271	883	69.5
2005-06	1,285	906	70.5
2004-05	1,290	902	69.9
2003-04	1,183	860	72.7
Lorry			
2007-08	803	289	36.0
2006-07	1,543	571	37.0
2005-06	1,835	661	36.0
2004-05	1,255	446	35.5
2003-04	1,031	437	42.4
Bus			
2007-08	87	30	34.5
2006-07	179	73	40.8
2005-06	178	56	31.5
2004-05	136	35	25.7
2003-04	90	26	28.9

The number of practical driving tests taken and passed in Essex in each of the last five years for car, bike, lorry and bus categories are as follows:

Essex

	Conducted	*Passed*	*Percentage pass*
Car			
2007-08	87,532	31,310	35.8
2006-07	88,325	31,196	35.3
2005-06	93,457	32,607	34.9
2004-05	75,359	25,614	34.0
2003-04	60,780	21,816	35.9
Bike			
2007-08	4,723	3,048	64.5
2006-07	4,236	2,575	60.8
2005-06	4,423	2,731	61.7
2004-05	4,370	2,772	63.4
2003-04	4,719	2,989	63.3
Lorry			
2007-08	3,093	1,072	34.7
2006-07	4,261	1,448	34.0
2005-06	5,213	1,794	34.4
2004-05	4,101	1,373	33.5
2003-04	3,191	1,268	39.7
Bus			
2007-08	295	100	33.9
2006-07	385	130	33.8
2005-06	555	138	24.9
2004-05	538	110	20.4
2003-04	237	75	31.6

The Driving Standards Agency is responsible for conducting driving tests within Great Britain. The Driver and Vehicle Agency is responsible for driving tests conducted within Northern Ireland. The number of practical driving tests taken and passed in Great Britain over the last five years for car, bike, lorry and bus categories are as follows:

Overall

	Conducted	*Passed*	*Percentage pass*
Car			
2007-08	1,769,860	783,632	44.3
2006-07	1,789,885	776,329	43.4
2005-06	1,827,381	777,817	42.6
2004-05	1,670,302	707,018	42.3
2003-04	1,399,385	598,347	42.8
Bike			
2007-08	87,962	58,520	66.5
2006-07	77,007	50,112	65.1
2005-06	80,162	51,031	63.7
2004-05	77,897	50,063	64.3
2003-04	83,451	53,789	64.5
Lorry			
2007-08	70,766	32,779	46.3
2006-07	78,140	36,119	46.2
2005-06	88,815	40,247	45.3
2004-05	79,431	36,935	46.5
2003-04	66,832	32,598	48.8
Bus			
2007-08	10,331	5,203	50.4
2006-07	9,922	4,602	46.4
2005-06	11,698	5,210	44.5
2004-05	12,251	5,369	43.8
2003-04	10,083	4,591	45.5

The number of practical car driving tests conducted in Northern Ireland are shown in the following table. Data for other categories are unavailable.

Overall

	Conducted	*Passed*	*Percentage pass*
2007-08	61,298	27,584	45
2006-07	61,173	28,751	47
2005-06	57,264	28,059	49
2004-05	41,547	19,942	48
2003-04	47,022	22,100	47

Railway Stations: Opening Hours

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 496W, on railway stations: opening hours, what criteria the ticketing and settlement agreements with *(a)* South West Trains and *(b)* First Capital Connect contain in respect of the minimum hourly number of (i) visits and (ii) ticket purchases required for a ticket office to remain open. [262265]

Paul Clark: The arrangements for through ticketing and rail retailing are specified in the Ticketing and Settlement Agreement (TSA). Each train operator's passenger licence requires them to be a party to, and comply with the TSA. Franchise agreements also require operators to comply with the TSA. The TSA does not vary by train operator.

The criteria within the TSA for changing ticket office opening hours do not specify either a minimum number of visits or ticket purchases which must be made.

Railways: Sussex

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will ensure that the process of producing a Sussex Route Utilisation Strategy secures a substantive revision of the timetable with a view to eliminating problems and shortening timetabled rail journey times. [261794]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 9 March 2009]:* Network Rail is in the course of developing a route utilisation strategy (RUS) for Sussex, in conjunction with, and on behalf of, rail industry partners and wider stakeholders. Editorial control of each RUS lies with a Stakeholder Management Group and it would be inappropriate for Government to seek to interfere in the workings of such a group.

Road Traffic: Urban Areas

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what change in congestion levels was recorded by each of the urban areas to receive the Urban Congestion Performance Fund payment announced on 23 February 2009. [261628]

Paul Clark: The following table contains the percentage change in average person journey time per mile in each urban area from the baseline (a combination of 2004-05 and 2005-06 data) and 2007-08:

Urban area	*Percentage change*
London	-5.1
Greater Manchester	-1.6
Merseyside	-2.2
South Yorkshire	-5.2
Tyne and Wear	-5.7
West Midlands	0.0
West Yorkshire	1.4
Bristol	-5.4
Leicester	-0.1
Nottingham	0.0
10 urban areas	-3.0

The full table is available in "Road Traffic and Congestion in Great Britain; Quarter 4 2008", available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/roadstraffic/traffic/qbtrafficgb/2008/q408

Roads: Accidents

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road accidents have been recorded involving hit and run drivers in (i) England and (ii) each local authority area in each year since 1997. [262310]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A table showing the number of accidents involving hit and run drivers in (i) England and (ii) each local authority area in each year since 1997 has been deposited in the Libraries of the House.

Roads: Compensation

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was paid in compensation by *(a)* the Highways Agency and *(b)* local highways authorities for claims relating to vehicles damaged as a result of poor road maintenance in each of the last three years. [262190]

Paul Clark: The Highways Agency paid compensation as follows (calendar years):

	£
2006	5,513
2007	3,466
2008	8,113

Information relating to claims against local authorities is not collected centrally.

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which trade unions are recognised in his Department. [262083]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport recognises the following trade unions: Public and Commercial Services, FDA and Prospect. In view of the nature of their work, the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency and the Government Car and Despatch Agency also recognise Unite (formerly T and G Workers Union).

Transport: Snow and Ice

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to build increased resilience into key national transport networks for circumstances where temperatures drop below freezing. [255181]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* The owners and operators of the key national transport networks have a wide range of plans in place to ensure resilience in the event of adverse weather conditions, including snow and freezing temperatures.

As a result, in the case of the recent severe weather, the Highways Agency was able to minimise disruption to the strategic road network (motorways and major

trunk roads in England) which the Secretary of State for Transport is responsible for, while also providing emergency road salt supplies to a number of local authorities (who are responsible for around 95 per cent. of roads in England).

Network Rail is responsible for the rail network and makes all reasonable preparations for exceptional weather in the winter. They along with train operating companies take responsibility for ensuring stations are maintained during these periods.

Additionally, the major transport sectors will be undertaking reviews of their performance during the recent severe winter weather, to ensure appropriate lessons are learned to support the continuous improvement to winter services.

HEALTH

Abortion: Drugs

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which abortifacient drugs are licensed for use in England; and if he will make a statement; [261398]

(2) when his Department last undertook a review of clinical evidence on the use of *(a)* mifepristone and *(b)* the morning-after pill that drew on (i) UK and (ii) international research; and if he will make a statement. [261581]

Dawn Primarolo: In the United Kingdom Mifegyne (mifepristone or RU486) is licensed for the termination of pregnancy (abortion). This product licence was granted following advice from the then Committee on Safety of Medicines (CSM) that was based on a review of all the available evidence for safety, efficacy and quality.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), in consultation with the wider Department, has reviewed the use of emergency hormonal contraception on a number of occasions: in 2001, when Levonelle-2 was made available for sale in pharmacies as Levonelle; in 2003, when the dosing regimen was changed from taking two tablets 12 hours apart to taking them at the same time; and in relation to this, when the strength of the pill was doubled in 2004 so that only one tablet need be taken. Advice from the Committee on Safety of Medicines (now the Commission on Human Medicines) was sought on all occasions.

In 2005 the safety of mifepristone was reviewed within the UK and Europe in response to the reporting of very rare cases of fatal toxic shock following infection, reported from the United States of America, in association with the use of mifepristone and misoprostol for medical abortion. The Food and Drugs Administration concluded that no causal relationship could be established and that serious bacterial infections may occur with all types of abortion, whether spontaneous, surgical or medical. Similar cases of fatalities had not been observed in the UK or Europe. No new safety concerns were identified and no action considered necessary. We are also aware that the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists reviewed the clinical use of mifepristone in order to update their September 2004 guideline on 'The Care of Women Requesting Induced Abortion'. This guideline recommends pre-abortion management for all types of abortion which includes infection screening and prophylaxis.

The MHRA most recently reviewed the use of mifepristone in 2007. This review examined effectiveness and safety data relating to the use of mifepristone in combination with a prostaglandin for the termination of pregnancy up to nine weeks gestation and the balance of benefits and risks was found to be favourable. A comparison of medical versus surgical abortion found significantly more suspected pelvic infections and surgical complications, including uterine perforation that required laparoscopy, after surgical abortion. Furthermore, no significant difference in the success rates after medical abortion was observed compared with surgical abortion.

As with all licensed medicines, the safety of mifepristone and emergency hormonal contraception will continue to be monitored by the MHRA.

Antidepressants

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what regulatory changes he has made to prevent a recurrence of the time taken by manufacturers to inform the regulator of the harmful effects of prescribed selective serotonin re-uptake inhibitors on patients. [261391]

Dawn Primarolo: A number of legislative changes have been made to strengthen and clarify the legal obligations of marketing authorisation holders. There is now an EU Directive governing the conduct of clinical trials which came into force in the United Kingdom on 1 May 2004. This introduced a criminal offence for the failure to report adverse reactions occurring in clinical trials.

Changes were also introduced to European Union medicines legislation from October 2005 which clarify the obligation to report relevant safety information arising from clinical trials using products outside their normal conditions of use. These were implemented in the UK from 30 October 2005 and include an obligation to provide specified information promptly.

UK legislation was amended in December 2008 to specify prompt reporting requirements for clinical trials, including those conducted outside the European economic area and outside the terms of any marketing authorisation valid in the UK.

European legislative proposals published in December 2008 further clarify the legal obligations on marketing authorisation holders to report harmful effects and to do so promptly.

Assertive Outreach Teams

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many assertive outreach teams there were in *(a)* England, *(b)* the South West, *(c)* Devon and *(d)* East Devon in each of the last 10 years. [261788]

Phil Hope: The total number of assertive outreach (AO) teams in England from September 2000 to March 2008 is provided in the following table.

We do not hold data requested for the South West Strategic Health Authority (SHA) or the Devon and East Devon areas centrally. However, what data the Department holds about AO teams in the South West and the Devon Partnership Trust are also represented in the table.

Mental Health Services: Assertive outreach teams in England, South West SHA and in Devon Partnership Trust from the year 2000 to present

	Assertive outreach teams [1]		
	England	South West	Devon Partnership Trust
September 2000	130	n/a	n/a
September 2001	180	n/a	n/a
September 2002	197	[1]—	1
September 2003	251	[1]—	7
September 2004	255	[1]—	4
March 2005	262	[1]—	4
January 2006	252	29	4
March 2007	251	27	4
March 2008	249	28	4

n/a = Data not available
[1] Data are in old SHA format, data not comparable
Source:
Durham mapping 2000 to 2006
From March 2006: Mental Health Strategies

Cardiovascular System: Ethnic Groups

Mrs. Cryer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department is taking to increase accessibility to the vascular risk assessment and management programme for those from South Asian communities; [260853]

(2) if he will review the eligibility age range for the vascular risk assessment and management programme for those of South Asian origin at risk of type 2 diabetes; and if he will make a statement. [260854]

Ann Keen: The vascular checks programme to which my hon. Friend refers offers a real opportunity to make significant inroads in tackling health inequalities, including these relating to ethnicity. The checks themselves are suitable for delivery in a number of settings including general practice, but are equally suitable for pharmacy and other community settings, to help improve access to the checks by those who are less likely to see their general practitioner.

The approach taken by the programme, which primary care trusts (PCTs) are being asked to start rolling out in 2009-10, is based on economic modelling undertaken by the Department to help ensure the most clinically effective and cost effective format. This is the service PCTs will have additional funding for from April 2009. All PCTs will wish to consider how to achieve the best coverage in terms of access and take up for their population, including commissioning the most effective provision for those communities at higher risk of vascular disease, such as South Asians.

Childbirth

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of *(a)* encephaly and *(b)* spina bifida following (i) live births and (ii) elective terminations were diagnosed in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [261734]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many cases of (a) encephaly and (b) spina bifida following (i) live births and (ii) elective terminations were diagnosed in each year since 2001. (261734)

The table attached provides the number of cases of (a) anencephalus and (b) spina bifida, (i) reported to the National Congenital Anomaly System following live births, and (ii), the number of abortion notifications under Ground E of the Abortion Act 1967 associated with each of these congenital anomalies, from 2001 to 2007 (the latest year available). A termination may be carried out under Ground E where there is a substantial risk that if the child were born it would suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities as to be seriously handicapped.

It is not possible to say how many of these abortion notifications were elective terminations.

Table 1. Number of cases of anencephalus[1] and spina bifida[2] following live births and the number of abortion notifications[3] associated with each of these conditions, England and Wales, 2001-07[4]

	Anencephalus		Spina Bifida	
	Live Births	Abortion Notifications	Live Births	Abortion Notifications
2001	12	148	47	127
2002	13	137	60	98
2003	17	*	57	*
2004	12	145	58	90
2005	13	139	47	121
2006	8	166	42	106
2007	14	144	34	117

[1] Anencephalus is defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10), code Q00.
[2] Spina Bifida is defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10), code Q05.
[3] Abortion notifications are on Ground E 'there is a substantial risk that if the child were born it would suffer from such physical of mental abnormalities as to be seriously handicapped'. An asterisk (*) denotes that figures are not available for this year.
[4] Figures are for notifications in each calendar year.

Dementia

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how the £150 million he has allocated to fund implementation of the Dementia Strategy will be observed between each of the Strategy's 17 objectives; [262284]

(2) from which budget the £150 million he has allocated to fund implementation of the Dementia Strategy will be taken; and by what mechanism it will be allocated to the NHS; [262288]

(3) how the £150 million he has allocated to fund implementation of the Dementia Strategy will be allocated to *(a)* resource and *(b)* capital expenditure in each year of the Strategy. [262289]

Phil Hope: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to him on 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 639-40W.

Dementia: Research

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much research funding has been allocated to studies linked to dementia in each financial year since 1997-98 for which figures are available; and how much is to be allocated in each financial year to 2010-11. [262283]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to my reply to him on 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 640-41W.

Departmental Press

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of his Department's expenditure on newspapers, magazines and periodicals in each year since 2004. [261353]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department's library service is responsible for central purchasing of newspapers, magazines and periodicals for library use and for retention by individual units.

Total expenditure for the financial years 2004-05 to 2008-09 is:

	£
2004-05	380,025
2005-06	395,148
2006-07	350,930
2007-08	317,386
2008-09	[1]302,440

[1] Estimate of final out-turn

Diabetes: Ethnic Groups

Mrs. Cryer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the number of black and minority ethnic people in Bradford and Airedale Primary Care Trust area who have been diagnosed with diabetes; [260850]

(2) what estimate has been made of the percentage of black and minority ethnic people in Bradford and Airedale Primary Care Trust who *(a)* were offered and *(b)* attended annual retinal screening appointments in the 12 months up to 30 September 2008. [260851]

Ann Keen: The information is not collected centrally.

Mrs. Cryer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure that primary care trusts provide people with diabetes from black and minority ethnic communities annual retinal screening. [260852]

Ann Keen: All eligible people with diabetes should be offered screening for diabetic retinopathy regardless of ethnicity.

The English National Screening Programme for Sight Threatening Retinopathy (NSP) has been established to support local delivery of diabetic retinopathy screening. The NSP is managing a number of initiatives to improve equality of access to screening. These include:

asking specific questions about equality as part of its external quality assurance process;

recommending health equity audits are carried out by each screening programme so that no particular group is disadvantaged; and

developing national patient information leaflets—these have undergone extensive consultation with patient groups and translation of leaflets into easy to read versions in a variety of languages have been commissioned and are being developed.

The delivery of this programme is a priority for the national health service and has been included in the last two sets of planning guidance for the NHS and retained in the planning guidance for 2009-10.

Diseases

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases there were of *(a)* mumps, *(b)* whooping cough, *(c)* typhoid, *(d)* *scarlet* fever, *(e)* cholera, *(f)* diphtheria, *(g)* leprosy, *(h)* botulism, *(i)* listeria, *(j)* tuberculosis, *(k)* polio and *(l)* typhus in each strategic health authority in each of the last five years. [261488]

Dawn Primarolo: The available information has been placed in the Library.

European Commission

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what occasions other than meetings of the EU Council of Ministers, Ministers from his Department expect to meet the European Commissioner for Health over the next six months. [262095]

Dawn Primarolo: There are currently no plans to hold a meeting, in the coming six months, between Health Ministers and the European Commissioner for Health, other than at the EU Council of Ministers. Such a meeting can be arranged as the need arises. The United Kingdom will however continue to engage regularly with the Commission and other EU member states at official level in the Health Council Working Group.

Gynaecology

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much NHS funding was provided for *(a)* research into and *(b)* treatment of premature ovarian failure in (i) Gloucestershire and (ii) England in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [260994]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department funds national health service research and development through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). The Institute's research programmes support high quality research of relevance and in areas of high priority to patients and the NHS. None of this research is at present concerned specifically with premature ovarian failure.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is the other main agency through which the Government support medical and clinical research. The MRC is an independent body that receives its grant-in-aid from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

The MRC is currently funding four research projects of relevance to premature ovarian failure on which £1.1 million was spent in 2007-08. It also supports a large portfolio of reproductive tract research and underpinning reproductive medicine research.

Details of NHS expenditure on the treatment of women with premature ovarian failure are not centrally available.

Health Services: Manpower

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to increase the *(a)* number and *(b)* skills level of public health workers as proposed in "A High Quality Workforce: NHS Next Stage Review." [260827]

Ann Keen: In order to ensure that the actions we are setting in train to deliver the numbers and skills required in the public health workforce are aligned and coherent with our system policies, we have commissioned an internal review. This will examine the effectiveness of existing policies and initiatives in place across the Department and will provide an informed assessment of the capacity requirements and skills gaps of the public health delivery system.

The team supporting this review is now in place and has commenced work, engaging across the Department and with key external stakeholders. The timetable they are working to will result in the publication of findings late in the year, to inform planning cycles for the public health delivery systems.

Health Services: Training

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the multi-professional education and training budget for each strategic health authority was in each year since 1997. [260846]

Ann Keen: Information on the multi professional education and training budget has been collected only on a comparable basis since 2003-04 financial year. The sums allocated to each strategic health authority (SHA) are shown in the following tables:

Multi professional education and training allocations by SHA

£000

SHA	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08[1]
Avon Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	113,482	127,153	139,580	156,2692	193,746
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	57,906	63,356	69,070	73,443	110,577
Birmingham and Black Country	167,514	185,641	198,876	204,396	218,231
Cheshire and Merseyside	150,099	162,744	177,121	180,582	265,261
County Durham and Tees Valley	47,893	50,617	57,511	59,672	85,053
Cumbria and Lancashire	77,749	84,449	92,100	93,466	95,539
Dorset and Somerset	42,669	43,496	46,971	47,563	48,872
Essex	56,531	61,288	66,711	73,457	75,628
Greater Manchester	178,562	194,776	213,247	225,463	243,027
Hampshire and Isle of Wight	99,195	109,131	124,838	132,287	163,312
Kent and Medway	54,109	57,175	66,956	72,193	104,841
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland	91,782	105,272	114,178	106,057	109,259
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	117,875	125,830	134,598	144,190	148,546
North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire	61,938	67,455	73,222	77,873	84,319
North Central London	180,279	195,814	206,788	219,256	310,398
North East London	154,995	166,379	174,578	175,442	188,926
North West London	178,124	185,787	194,520	193,140	198,858
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	120,135	127,178	139,313	139,814	152,152
Shropshire and Staffordshire	56,070	61,271	66,973	66,452	67,910
South East London	171,660	183,425	192,122	190,038	215,140
South West London	103,603	113,947	121,130	120,426	122,435
South West Peninsula	68,109	76,543	95,418	104,361	109,597
South Yorkshire	158,715	162,238	185,604	[2]227,673	123,571
Surrey and Sussex	99,261	105,173	123,670	129,363	138,954
Thames Valley	105,110	112,869	120,849	124,495	128,469
Trent	129,589	145,390	163,835	170,475	214,173
West Midlands South	56,826	59,497	64,770	80,062	140,076
West Yorkshire	143,675	152,167	171,983	178,503	245,349
Total	3,045,552	3,225,921	3,598,326	3,766,349	4,302,237

[1] The £449 million student bursary budget was only allocated in 2007-08 to the 10 new SHAs rather than the 28 former SHAs following NHS reorganisation.
[2] AGW allocation excludes £8,800,000 for Skills for Health budget.
[3] S. Yorkshire allocation excludes £32,100,000 for Electronic Staff Record project.
Note:
1. Allocations are not directly comparable due to the composition of the budget in each year.

Multi professional education and training allocations by SHA, 2008-09

SHA	Allocation (£000)
East Midlands	373,821
East of England	333,430
London	1,964,986
North East	347,104
North West	681,633
South Central	301,342
South East Coast	248,384
South West	370,781
West Midlands	452,192
Yorkshire and the Humber	475,297
Total	4,548,969

Hospital Wards

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 25 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 874-75W, on hospital wards: gender,

from which budget funding for the improvement teams will come. [260828]

Ann Keen: The budget for the improvement teams relating to elimination of mixed sex accommodation is provided from the Department's central budgets.

Hospitals: Admissions

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* children and *(b)* adults have been admitted to hospital for injuries sustained as a result of (i) assault by a blunt object, (ii) assault by a sharp object and (iii) gun shots where the incident occurred at a school in each of the last 10 years. [257730]

Dawn Primarolo: Information which has been provided includes a breakdown for children aged 15 and under, 16 to 17 and those aged 18 and over. It is not possible using the hospital episode statistics dataset to determine whether incidents have occurred in schools.

The data provided include all activity in national health service hospitals England and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by the English NHS.

Reference should be made to the notes and clinical codes when interpreting the data.

Total number of admissions to hospital for injuries sustained by a gunshot wound, assault by a sharp or blunt object, broken down by age group for years 1996-97 - 2006-07

	15 and under	*16 and 17*	*18 and over*	*Other*	*Total*
Assault by blunt objects					
1996-97	165	172	2,503	56	2,896
1997-98	137	149	2,424	44	2,754
1998-99	105	132	2,172	6	2,415
1999-2000	120	120	2,364	5	2,617
2000-01	126	99	2,223	5	2,453
2001-02	139	136	2,342	11	2,628
2002-03	152	144	2,450	5	2,751
2003-04	139	147	2,683	2	2,971
2004-05	159	166	2,755	3	3,083
2005-06	224	175	2,944	2	3,345
2006-07	150	209	3,181	1	3,541
Assault by sharp objects					
1996-97	114	247	3,529	52	3,942
1997-98	112	239	3,466	58	3,875
1998-99	88	191	3,370	18	3,667
1999-2000	118	248	3,738	21	4,125
2000-01	130	264	3,842	13	4,249
2001-02	132	283	4,198	29	4,642
2002-03	95	237	3,937	6	4,275
2003-04	110	296	4,358	10	4,774
2004-05	143	300	4,627	2	5,072
2005-06	169	374	4,949	4	5,496
2006-07	179	441	5,097	3	5,720
Gun shot wounds					
1996-97	333	134	606	11	1,084
1997-98	260	112	613	9	994

Total number of admissions to hospital for injuries sustained by a gunshot wound, assault by a sharp or blunt object, broken down by age group for years 1996-97 - 2006-07

	15 and under	*16 and 17*	*18 and over*	*Other*	*Total*
1998-99	270	102	604	2	987
1999-2000	362	133	674	1	1,170
2000-01	287	140	693	2	1,122
2001-02	321	147	949	3	1,420
2002-03	253	163	870	1	1,287
2003-04	267	123	978	2	1,370
2004-05	199	108	855	1	1,163
2005-06	155	117	960	1	1,233
2006-07	181	145	988	1	1,315

Notes:
Assignment of Episodes to Years:
Years are assigned by the end of the first period of care in a patient's hospital stay.
Finished admission episodes:
A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider.
Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
Cause Code—Blunt object, Sharp object and Gunshot Wounds:
The cause code is a supplementary code that indicates the nature of any external cause of injury, poisoning or other adverse effects.
HES has used the following ICD-10 external cause codes when referring to gunshot wounds and assault by sharp and blunt objects.
Blunt Object:
Y00—Assault by blunt object
Sharp Object:
X99—Assault by sharp object
Gunshot wound:
W32—Handgun discharge
W33—Rifle, shotgun and larger firearm discharge
W34—Discharge from other and unspecified firearms
X72—Intentional self-harm by handgun discharge
X73—Intentional self-harm by rifle, shotgun and larger firearm discharge
X74—Intentional self-harm by other and unspecified firearm discharge
X93—Assault by handgun discharge
X94—Assault by rifle, shotgun and larger firearm discharge
X95—Assault by other and unspecified firearm discharge
Y22—Handgun discharge, undetermined intent
Y23—Rifle, shotgun and larger firearm discharge, undetermined intent
Y24—Other and unspecified firearm discharge, undetermined intent
Y35.0 Legal intervention involving firearm discharge
Y36.4 War operations involving firearm discharge and other forms of conventional warfare
Data Quality:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The NHS information centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and works to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
Assessing growth through time:
HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected by the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.
Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
Unprocessed Data:
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (ie the data are unprocessed).
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS information centre for health and social care.

Hospitals: Children

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children aged *(a)* under 10 years and *(b)* 10 years and over were admitted to hospital with a diagnosis of (i) non-alcoholic fatty liver and (ii) diabetes in each year since 1997-98. [260849]

Ann Keen: The following table gives the number of finished admission episodes where children aged 0 to 18, were admitted to hospital in each year since 1997-98 with a diagnosis of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease or diabetes.

Number of finished admission episodes where primary diagnosis was non-alcoholic fatty liver disease or diabetes mellitus for children aged under 10-years and 10-18 years, years 1997-98 to 2007-08.

Activity in NHS Hospitals and NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector in England

	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Fatty (change of) liver, not elsewhere classified											
Under 10 years	2	1	2	2	3	2	7	2	6	7	8
10-18 years	3	4	9	8	11	19	30	10	17	15	13
Diabetes											
Under 10 years	1,847	2,020	2,183	2,091	2,125	2,216	2,225	2,277	2,279	2,254	2,082
10-18 years	3,929	4,302	4,672	4,843	5,080	5,360	5,692	5,827	6,298	6,397	6,656

Notes:
Finished admission episodes
A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
Primary diagnosis
The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.
Unrounded data
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in the data, ie the data are unrounded.
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Hospitals: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many mortalities there were in each hospital in the ceremonial county of Hampshire in each of the last five years. [261480]

Kevin Brennan: I have asked the Authority to reply. The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many mortalities there were in each hospital in the ceremonial county of Hampshire in each of the last five years. (261480)

The table attached provides the number of deaths occurring in each hospital or multifunction site in (a) Hampshire county, (b) Portsmouth unitary authority and (c) Southampton unitary authority, from 2003 to 2007 (the latest year available). Together, these areas formed the old Hampshire county prior to local government reorganisation in 1997.

Table 1: Number of deaths occurring in each hospital in Hampshire county, Portsmouth unitary authority and Southampton unitary authority, 2003-07(1,2)

Area	NHS/non-NHS	Hospital	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Hampshire	NHS	Allen Gardiner Unit Memorial Hospital	6	11	4	7	2
		Alton Community Hospital	32	37	31	33	32
		Andover War Memorial Hospital	31	32	25	14	24
		Countess Mountbatten House Mucopyosis Hospital	341	297	294	322	338
		Fareham Cottage Hospital	12	10	3	0	0
		Fleet Community Hospital	17	3	0	6	6
		Fordingbridge Hospital,	37	43	36	29	11
		Gosport War Memorial Hospital	85	82	82	94	92
		Havant War Memorial Hospital	40	28	34	29	30
		Hythe Hospital	39	16	11	9	11
		Lymington Hospital	157	154	198	198	7
		Mucopyosis Hospital	98	118	72	25	21
		Oldham Cottage Hospital	21	16	10	13	15
		Petersfield Hospital	62	67	43	69	54
		Romsey Hospital	35	28	33	28	31
		Royal Hampshire County Hospital	936	972	965	868	922
		St. Christopher's Hospital	44	16	0	0	0
		The Infirmary	7	0	0	0	0
		The Lymington New Forest Hospital	0	0	0	0	186
		The Mount Hospital	12	10	0	0	0

Table 1: Number of deaths occurring in each hospital in Hampshire county, Portsmouth unitary authority and Southampton unitary authority, 2003-07[1,2,3]

Area	NHS/non-NHS	Hospital	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
		The North Hampshire Hospital	774	785	788	697	693
		Victoria Cottage Hospital	26	21	16	0	0
		War Memorial Hospital	21	13	10	12	6
	Non-NHS	BUPA	5	4	0	2	2
		Hampshire Clinic	14	8	3	6	7
		Royal Hospital Haslar	5	3	2	1	8
		St. Georges Nursing Home	17	25	19	0	0
		Wessex Nuffield Hospital	0	1	0	1	1
Portsmouth	NHS	Queen Alexandra Hospital	2,407	2,089	1,951	1,900	1,748
	Non-NHS	St. Marys Hospital	499	660	744	705	759
Southampton	NHS	General Hospital	2,341	2,192	2,241	2,128	2,034
		Royal South Hants Hospital	62	25	16	37	40
		Western Community Hospital	41	60	48	31	11
	Non-NHS	Spire Hospital	7	3	2	10	9

[1] Based on boundaries as of 2008.
[2] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.
[3] Where no deaths are reported for a hospital over a period of years, this is indicative of an establishment changing use, closing down or opening during the period 2003-07.

Human Papilloma Virus: Children

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many girls aged between 12 and 13 years have been vaccinated against human papilloma virus in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Bolton. [263024]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department collects data for England on the Human Papilloma virus (HPV) vaccination programme.

Provisional data at the end of January 2009 for HPV vaccine uptake in England show that:

a total of 256,531 12 to 13-year-old girls have received the first dose; this represents 83.3 per cent. of the total number of girls in this age group; and

a total of 227,136 12 to 13-year-old girls have received the first and second doses, this represents 73.3 per cent. of the total number of girls in this age group.

Provisional data at the end of January 2009 for HPV vaccine uptake in the area covered by Bolton primary care trust (PCT) show that:

a total of 1,827 12 to 13-year-old girls have received the first dose; this represents 90.1 per cent. of the total number of girls in this age group in schools in Bolton PCT; and

a total of 1,465 12 to 13-year-old girls have received the first and second doses; this represents 80.0 per cent. of the total number of girls in this age group in schools in Bolton PCT.

The HPV vaccination is a three-dose schedule and the current cohorts of 12 to 13-year-old girls will be offered their third dose later this year.

Learning Disability

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the implications of likely future trends in the number of adults with a learning disability in England for levels of funding for services for such people during the next Comprehensive Spending Review; and if he will make a statement; [261379]

(2) if he will hold meetings with representatives of the learning disability sector on levels of funding for services for people with a learning disability during the next Comprehensive Spending Review period. [261381]

Phil Hope: Her Majesty's Treasury (HMT) have yet to announce the timing of the next spending review and make available the associated guidance. We will have discussions with HMT in due course, as part of that process. The meetings the Department are engaged in with the Learning Disability Coalition help inform the data and evidence we need to make the best possible case for adequate funding for all adults with social care needs, including those with a learning disability.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research he has evaluated on likely changes in the numbers of people with a learning disability during the next three years. [261380]

Phil Hope: By the end of spring 2009, the Department will be disseminating a report by Professor Eric Emerson (February 2009) from the Centre for Disability Research, Lancaster university, 'Estimating Future Numbers of Adults with Profound Multiple Learning Disabilities in England'. It is envisaged that this information will help local services to better estimate the numbers of adults with profound multiple disabilities and therefore provide support where it is required. Departmental officials are also in discussion with the Learning Disability Coalition on options about possible research on the prevalence of learning disabilities.

Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender History Month

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent by his Department on the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender History Month in each of the last five years. [261350]

Phil Hope: In line with our commitment to valuing diversity and ensuring that Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) people are treated with respect as both service users and employees within health and social care, the Department has formally recognised LGBT History Month since 2005. This has included the following expenditure:

	£
2005	2,158
2006	[1]2,000
2007	2,000
2008	9,171
2009	2,572

[1] Approximately

Local Public Health Laboratories

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 25 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 877W, on local public health laboratories, which department had responsibility for the Public Health Laboratory Service between 1999 and 2003; and where the information relating to local public health laboratories during that period is held. [261817]

Dawn Primarolo: The Public Health Laboratory Service was a non-departmental public body of the Department of Health, under the NHS Act 1977. Its Annual Reports and Accounts, which included information about the local public health laboratories which it managed, were laid before Parliament.

Mental Health Services

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many and what proportion of the 35 improving access to psychological therapy sites have complied with National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on computerised cognitive behavioural therapy; and if he will make a statement; [261489]

(2) how many treatments of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence-approved cognitive behavioural therapy programmes *(a)* Beating the Blues and *(b)* FearFighter have been provided by the 35 improving access to psychological therapy sites; and if he will make a statement; [261490]

(3) what recent progress has been made on establishing a national contract for the purchase of treatments for depression under the Beating the Blues programme; and if he will make a statement; [261502]

(4) what the average cost to the NHS of treating an individual for depression and anxiety was in the latest period for which information is available; what estimate his Department has made of the effect on those costs of nationwide implementation of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on computerised psychological therapies; and if he will make a statement. [261503]

Phil Hope: The core aim of the Department's improving access to psychological therapies programme is to support the national health service to implement the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidelines and deliver effective treatment for people with depression and anxiety disorders. Compliance with clinical guidelines published by NICE forms part of the developmental standards for the NHS and NHS organisations are expected to move towards their full implementation. The Department recognises the important contribution of the effective provision of computerised cognitive behavioural therapy (cCBT) and primary care trusts (PCTs) are obliged to provide funding for NICE-recommended cCBT packages where clinicians want to use them, however, the Department does not collect information on the uptake of cCBT.

Information is not held centrally about how many treatments of Beating the Blues or FearFighter have been provided by PCTs.

The NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency have provided procurement advice to the NHS. However, the Department is not in a position to ring-fence funds specifically for cCBT, including Beating the Blues, as decisions about local services are made by local commissioners based on local needs assessments.

Information is not held centrally on the cost to the NHS of treating an individual for depression and anxiety so no comparison can be made as to the impact of the nationwide implementation of NICE guidance on cCBT.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the average cost of complying with National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance on computerised cognitive behavioural therapy, broken down by *(a)* primary care trust and *(b)* strategic health authority. [261978]

Phil Hope: This information is not collected centrally.

Mental Health Services: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the tariff uplift breakdown for 2009-10 published by his Department on 5 February 2009, when he intends to develop a tariff for mental health services. [262636]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 24 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 660W.

NHS Treatment Centres: Private Sector

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which independent sector treatment centres have contracts due for renewal in the next *(a)* six and *(b)* 12 months. [262045]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following Independent Sector Treatment Centres have contracts currently due for expiry in the next six and 12 months:

Six months (to 30 September 2009):

Ophthalmic Chain (OC123); and

Magnetic Resonance Imaging

12 months (to 31 March 2010):

Bradford;

Kidderminster;

Plymouth;

East Cornwall.

East Lincolnshire;

North East Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire;

Northumberland, Tyne and Wear;

Southampton;

Thames Valley Milton Keynes;

Thames Valley Reading; and

West Lincolnshire.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what independent sector treatment centre projects are under contract in *(a)* phase 1 and *(b)* phase 2. [262046]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following Independent Sector Treatment Centre projects are under contract in Wave 1 and Phase 2:

Wave 1

LP2 Bradford

LP3 Burton

LP4 Barlborough

LP7 Shepton Mallet

LP8 Manchester

LP9 Plymouth

GC4 East Cornwall

GC4 East Lincolnshire

GC4 North East Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire

GC4 North Oxford

GC4 Northumberland, Tyne and Wear

GC4 Southampton

GC4 Thames Valley Milton Keynes

GC4 Thames Valley Reading

GC4 West Lincolnshire

GC5E Nottingham

GC5WKidderminster

GC5WCheshire & Merseyside

GC6 Maidstone

GC7 North East London

GC8 Wycombe

GC8 Portsmouth

GC8 Medway

GC8 Brighton

GC8 Havant Ophthalmic Chain

Phase 2

D01 London

D8N Positron Emission Tomography Computed Tomography North

D8S Positron Emission Tomography Computed Tomography South

E01 Avon Gloucestershire and Wiltshire

E05 Cumbria and Lancashire

E06 Cheshire and Merseyside

E08 Greater Manchester Clinical Assessment Treatment and Support

E09 Hampshire and Isle of While

E15 Northumberland, Tyne and Wear

E16 Renal

NHS: Alcohol Cleaners

Mr. Greg Knight: (1) To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS hospitals have removed alcohol-based hand cleaning solutions in order to prevent people from drinking them; and if he will make a statement; [261891]

(2) if he will instruct NHS trusts to ensure that alcohol-based hand cleaning solutions remain available at NHS hospitals. [261902]

Ann Keen: The national patient safety agency patient safety alert 'Clean Hands Save Lives' issued in September 2008 (which has been placed in the Library) provides guidance for the national health service, and explains the benefit of using alcohol handrubs at the point of care. It states:

'There are a number of risks to patients and staff associated with the use of alcohol handrub, however the benefits in terms of its use far outweigh the risks. A risk assessment should be undertaken and a management plan put in place. This particularly applies to clinical areas managing patients with alcohol use disorder and patients at risk of deliberate self harm.'

Removing alcohol handrub from areas of hospitals is a decision for local determination, according to local risk, and the Department does not keep information on the decisions of individual hospitals centrally.

As the patient safety alert makes clear, what is important is that staff are able to undertake hand hygiene at the point of care, if necessary using soap and water.

NHS: Apprentices

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the budget for NHS apprenticeships was in each year for which figures are available. [260844]

Ann Keen: The Department has not allocated a specific budget for national health service apprenticeships. NHS organisations use their existing sources of income to cover any training and employment costs. Organisations in all sectors of the economy can access external sources of funding for apprenticeships, including funding from the Learning and Skills Council, but no data are held centrally on the external funding sources. The funding arrangements for future years are under review.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what commercial revenues have been earned by the NHS outside England in each of the last three years; and how they were earned. [261086]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not centrally collect data on commercial revenues earned by the national health service outside England.

NHS: Legal Proceedings

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many legal proceedings have been brought against NHS organisations by private individuals on the basis that public consultations have been improperly conducted in the last five years. [260898]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect such information, and there is no requirement on national health service bodies to inform the Department when legal proceedings are brought against them.

NHS: Manpower

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the estimated cost is of establishing the Centre of Excellence referred to in paragraph 117 of A High Quality Workforce: NHS Next Stage Review. [260889]

Ann Keen: The cost of the Centre of Excellence is not yet established. Since the publication of "A High Quality Workforce" we have taken the time to consult with stakeholders across health, social care and education on what is an important strategic investment for the whole workforce planning system. The feedback received is feeding into the design of the business case and specification for the Centre of Excellence. This will be completed soon, with procurement scheduled to commence in the spring.

Nurses: Training

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nurses were enrolled in a foundation period of preceptorship in each year for which the figures are available; and what the budget was for such preceptorships in each year. [260845]

Ann Keen: Neither the number of nurses undertaking preceptorship or the amount spent is held centrally. The Government recognise the value of preceptorship and have made £10 million available in 2008-09 for strategic health authorities to invest in preceptorship. We plan to increase this to £20 million in 2009-10 and £30 million in 2010-11 and each subsequent year.

Occupational Therapists: Manpower

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many occupational therapists worked in the NHS in each year since 1997; and how many worked in each NHS organisation in each of the last three years. [260847]

Ann Keen: A table showing the number of qualified occupational therapists employed in the national health service in the years requested has been placed in the Library.

Pregnant Women: Alcoholic Drinks

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children were born with an alcohol dependency in each of the last three years. [261551]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not collected centrally.

RU486

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many women of each age group in each region after taking mifepristone were subject to *(a)* excessive bleeding, (b) haemorrhaging when the foetus was expelled from the uterus, *(c)* damage to the cervix and (d) an infection in each of the last five years for which figures are available, broken down by length of gestation of the pregnancy. [261578]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is shown in the following table.

Total complications reported[1] for abortions using Mifepristone (Mifegyne, RU486) by gestation and age, residents, England, 2003 to 2007

			Haemorrhage		Other complications[2]
	Total abortions using RU486	Total complications	Gestation under 13 weeks	13 weeks +	All gestations
2003	29,667	121	61	49	11
2004	34,466	93	58	25	10
2005	44,779	129	81	31	17
2006	56,805	136	98	24	14
2007	67,917	183	121	30	32

			Haemorrhage		Other complications[2]
	Total abortions using RU48	Total complications	Age under 25 years	25 years+	All ages
2003	29,667	121	39	71	11
2004	34,466	93	35	48	10
2005	44,779	129	52	60	17
2006	56,805	136	49	73	14
2007	67,917	183	72	79	32

[1] Up until the time of discharge from the place of termination.
[2] Includes uterine perforation and/or sepsis.
Note:
Breakdown by region is not possible due to small numbers. This is line with the Office for National Statistics' guidance on the disclosure of abortion statistics (2005)

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Essex

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people under 25 years received treatment for each sexually transmitted infection in *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency and *(b)* Essex in each of the last 10 years. [261769]

Dawn Primarolo: Data are only available on the number of diagnoses of sexually transmitted infections (STIs)

in genitourinary medicine (GUM) clinics and only available by strategic health authority (SHA). The following table gives the number of diagnoses for five selected STT diagnoses in patients under 25 in the East of England SHA between 1998 and 2007, the latest year for which data are available.

STI diagnoses	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Chlamydia	2,229	2,628	3,105	3,628	4,291	4,928	5,541	5,778	5,587	6,664
Gonorrhoea	274	397	457	539	578	731	705	516	439	410
Genital warts	2,713	3,106	2,926	3,096	3,147	3,298	3,485	3,571	3,628	3,991
Genital herpes	584	615	617	660	612	601	590	670	750	838
Syphilis	2	4	8	1	5	8	20	26	8	14

Notes:
1. Data by age-group are only available for five selected STI diagnoses (Chlamydia, gonorrhoea, genital warts, genital herpes and primary and secondary syphilis)
2. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are for diagnoses made in GUM clinics only. Diagnoses made in other clinical settings, such as general practice, are not recorded in the KC60 dataset.
3. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are the number of diagnoses made, not the number of patients diagnosed.
4. The information provided has been adjusted for missing clinic data.
5. Data on S71 diagnoses are provided. Data on treatment received are unavailable.

Source:
Health Protection Agency, KC60 returns

In addition to STTs diagnosed in a GUM clinic, the National Chlamydia Screening programme (NCSP) provides chlamydia screening to asymptomatic people under the age of 25 years of age in England. The NCSP was launched in 2003 when a phased implementation programme started. The following table shows the number of diagnoses of chlamydia in patients between the ages of 13-24 years between April 2003 and December 2008 in Mid Essex primary care trust (PCT), Essex (which includes Mid Essex PCT, North East Essex PCT, South East Essex PCT and West Essex PCT) and The East of England SHA.

Area	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Mid Essex PCT	0	[1]—	5	[1]—	29	104
Essex	100	221	204	284	601	1072
East of England SHA Total	107	324	728	1,610	2,015	2,650

[1] Cell size of one to four has been masked to protect deductive disclosure in accordance with Office for National Statistics guidelines.

Notes:
1. Data on Chlamydia diagnoses are provided. Complete data on treatment received are unavailable.
2. The figure for 'Essex' represents the sum of Chlamydia diagnoses made in Mid Essex, North East Essex, South East Essex and West Essex PCTs.
3. South East Essex is a phase 1 programme area which started screening in 2003-04. Mid Essex, North East Essex and West Essex are all phase three programme areas which started screening in 2006-07.
4. NSCP data are presented by PCT of residence.
5. The data available from the NCSP are the number of diagnoses made and not the number of patients diagnosed.

Source:
NCSP

Smoking

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the smoking ban in reducing levels of smoking in England. [261860]

Dawn Primarolo: Smoke free legislation was introduced primarily to protect people from the harm of second hand smoke in enclosed parts of work and public places.

On 1 July 2008 the Department published the report "Smokefree England—one year on", which gives details of the impact of the smoke free law in its first year. A copy of the "Smokefree England—one year on" report has already been placed in the Library.

Research has been commissioned by the Department, which will evaluate various aspects of the impact of the smoke free law in England. The resulting reports will be published once completed and peer reviewed.

In a report in July 2008, Professor Robert West Cancer Research UK's director of tobacco studies based at University College London, presented findings from the 'Smokers' Toolkit Study' that shows smoke free legislation in England has helped more smokers to quit than ever before and will continue in preventing an estimated 40,000 premature deaths over the next 10 years.

Social Services: Elderly

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of total net expenditure by local authorities was spent on *(a)* residential and nursing home places for older people and *(b)* domiciliary care for older people in each of the last 10 years. [261492]

Phil Hope: Data on expenditure by councils with adult social services responsibilities (CASSRs) on residential and nursing home places and domiciliary care for older people (aged 65 and over) are collected and published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care. The publication, "Personal Social Services Expenditure and Unit Costs: England 2007-08", is available on the Information Centre website at

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/pssexpcosts0708

and a copy has been placed in the Library.

Information on net current expenditure by CASSRs on residential and nursing home places and domiciliary

care for adults aged 65 and over between 1998-99 and 2007-08 in cash and real terms is shown in the following tables.

Information on total net expenditure by local authorities is the responsibility of the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Table 1: Net current expenditure by CASSRs on adults aged 65 and over between 1998-99 and 2007-08 in cash terms, England

£ million

	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Residential and nursing care home places	2,080	2,210	2,200	2,290	2,710	2,880	3,170	3,280	3,330	3,340
Domiciliary care	1,390	1,490	1,570	1,650	1,740	2,130	2,350	2,560	2,660	2,710
of which:										
Supporting People grant	—	—	—	—	—	190	170	150	140	150

Notes:
1. From the 2000-01 financial year, the data were collected on a different basis when the PSS EX1 replaced the R03 return.
2. Data from 2003-04 onwards include expenditure funded from the Supporting People grant that councils have classified as social services expenditure rather than housing expenditure.
3. From the 2000-01 financial year, the data were collected on a different basis when the PSS EX1 replaced the R03 return.

Table 2: Net current expenditure by CASSRs on adults aged 65 and over between 1998-99 and 2007-08 in real terms, England

£ million

	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Residential and nursing care home places	2,590	2,690	2,650	2,700	3,090	3,200	3,420	3,470	3,420	3,340
Domiciliary care	1,730	1,810	1,890	1,940	1,990	2,370	2,540	2,710	2,730	2,710
of which:										
Supporting People grant	—	—	—	—	—	220	190	160	140	150

Notes:
1. Converted from cash terms using the gross domestic product deflator.
2. From the 2000-01 financial year, the data was collected on a different basis when the PSS EX1 replaced the R03 return.
3. Data from 2003-04 onwards include expenditure funded from the Supporting People grant that councils have classified as social services expenditure rather than housing expenditure.
4. From the 2000-01 financial year, the data were collected on a different basis when the PSS EX1 replaced the R03 return.

Notes to all tables:
Net current expenditure excludes income from client contributions and income items which count as expenditure from elsewhere in the public sector, such as contributions from primary care trusts.
Residential and nursing care includes traditional residential and nursing care homes as well as supported and other accommodation. Supported and other accommodation includes other forms of registered accommodation where clients receive an element of both board and personal care, unstaffed (group) homes and adult placements/fostering.
Domiciliary care has been defined as services helping the client to live at home, including direct payments, home care, day care, equipment and adaptations, meals and other non residential services. It also includes expenditure funded from the Supporting People grant that councils have classified as social services expenditure rather than housing expenditure.
The information provided is derived from data collected annually on social services expenditure from CASSRs on the form PSS EX1. This collection has been the responsibility of the Information Centre since April 2005. Prior to this date, data was collected by the Department of Health.
From the 2000-01 financial year, the PSS EX1 replaced both the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy Actuals return, which was discontinued after 1999-2000, and the detailed analysis previously collected by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister on the R03 expenditure return (this was reduced to a summary return with effect from 2000-01).

Southampton General Hospital: Surgery

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many operations were *(a)* contracted to be carried out by and *(b)* carried out under contract with (i) Southampton Primary Care Trust (PCT) and (ii) Hampshire PCT at Southampton General Hospital in each month of the last three years. [261414]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not collect data on the number of operations carried out by individual trusts.

Surgery

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the merits of giving all surgical patients the opportunity to donate for research purposes tissue which would otherwise be incinerated; [262715]

(2) what steps his Department has taken to increase donations by surgical patients of human tissue for research purposes. [262718]

Dawn Primarolo: The Human Tissue Act 2004 allows for the storage and use of human tissue, with the appropriate consent, for a number of health-related purposes including research. The Act applies to England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The Act also allows tissue removed from a living person to be used without consent for research which has been ethically approved by a research ethics authority, providing the researcher will not be able to identify the person from whom the material has come.

The Human Tissue Authority (HTA) issues codes of practice setting out good practice in seeking consent for activities within its remit, including storage and use of tissue for research purposes. The HTA has recently consulted on a new code of practice on research. It is

for NHS trusts and research establishments to develop local arrangements within the regulatory framework set out by the HTA.

The HTA launched in February 2009 a review of how recent human tissue legislation has impacted on the research community, and how it has been implemented by the HTA. Further details can be found on the HTA's website at:

www.hta.gov.uk

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which trade unions are recognised in his Department. [262089]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department (and its agencies) recognise the Public and Commercial Services Union, Prospect and First Division Association for the purposes of individual representation for union members and for the purpose of collective bargaining.

Tranquillisers

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health from which advisory committees he obtains scientific advice on the use of tranquillisers. [261389]

Dawn Primarolo: Scientific advice on the use of tranquilisers is received from the Commission on Human Medicines.

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* prescriptions and *(b)* in-patient prescriptions were issued for (i) each benzodiazepine and (ii) each zed drug tranquilliser in 2008. [261390]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on the number of prescription items dispensed in the community in England for Benzodiazepines and "z" drugs is provided in the following table.

Chemical name	*Items (thousand)*
Benzodiazepines—prescription items dispensed January to September 2008[1]	
Alprazolam	<0.1
Chlordiazepoxide Hydrochloride	195.4
Clobazam (only used for epilepsy)	117.8
Clonazepam (only used for epilepsy)	382.7
Diazepam	3,616.4
Flurazepam Hydrochloride	<0.1
Loprazolam Mesilate	78.2
Lorazepam	666.6
Lormetazepam	70.8
Midazolam	2.4
Midazolam Hydrochloride	42.6
Midazolam Maleate	2.9
Nitrazepam	878.9
Oxazepam	134.7
Temazepam	2,335.2
"Z" drugs—prescription items dispensed January to September 2008	
Zaleplon	21.6
Zolpidem Tartrate	516.3
Zopiclone	3,459.5

[1] Data for the last quarter of 2008 are embargoed until the related National Statistic is published in April 2009.

Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) system

Information on the number of inpatient prescriptions is not held centrally in the format requested.

Transplant Surgery

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of organ transplants to transplantees resident *(a)* in and *(b)* outside the UK were successful at (i) three months and (ii) one year in the last 10 years, broken down by organ; how many transplantees resident (A) in and (B) outside the UK have received transplants in the last 10 years subsequently died, broken down by cause of death; and how many transplants undertaken on each category of person in the last 10 years were unsuccessful. [261676]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 6 March 2009]:* The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Vulnerable Adults: Protection

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to enforce a multi-agency approach to safeguarding vulnerable adults, with particular reference to those who are both deaf and blind. [261504]

Phil Hope: A revision of the key guidance, "No Secrets: Guidance on developing and implementing multi-agency policies and procedures to protect vulnerable adults from abuse", is currently under way. As part of this, a large public consultation took place between 16 October 2008 and 31 January 2009. A copy of the consultation document has been placed in the Library.

The consultation document asked a large number of questions about how we need to change and develop the "No Secrets" guidance, to strengthen and improve existing safeguarding arrangements for all vulnerable adults, including whether new legislation is needed. The review is also considering how to improve prevention of abuse, and how to assist all people including those who are blind or deaf in making decisions about risks and choice in their lives.

The consultation on safeguarding adults has elicited a huge amount of information, from both service users and professionals which is being considered very carefully by Ministers.

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to ensure that carers do not exert undue influence on vulnerable adults purchasing their care using personal budgets or direct payments. [261514]

Phil Hope: It is for professionals in developing support plans with users and carers to balance the needs of both. In doing so they need to ensure that an assessment of risk is undertaken and that the support plan reflects that in a proportionate manner as stated in the "Independence, choice and risk: a guide to best practice in supported decision" (May 2007).

The Health and Social Care Act 2008 extended direct payments to those people who lack capacity to consent and who are currently excluded from the scheme. These people will now be able to benefit from direct payments

through the appointment of a 'suitable person', often a friend or relative, to receive the payment on their behalf. The Department has recently consulted on draft regulations to implement this extension which, along with revised accompanying guidance, will come into force this year.

Anyone making decisions for a person who lacks capacity, including a suitable person who receives direct payments on that person's behalf, is obliged under the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) to act at all times in the best interests of the person lacking capacity. Acting in someone's best interests includes involving them in the decision-making process as far as is reasonably practicable to make sure that the person is able to have as much input as possible into decisions about their care. Suitable persons will need to be able to demonstrate how they have spent the direct payment and councils will have the power to stop the direct payment if it is not being spent in the way which it was intended when it was made.

We are also taking action to ensure advice is made available to families who will manage direct payments on behalf of an individual who lacks capacity. The Government are making resources available under the MCA grant to councils and primary care trusts to train professionals on all aspects of working with people who lack capacity and taking best interest decisions on their behalf. Councils decide how best to use these resources on training, awareness raising and appointing specialist MCA professionals.

Wheelchairs

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what progress his Department has made towards publishing the outline model for wheelchair services as part of its transforming community equipment and wheelchair services programme; [261547]

(2) when he plans to publish the new model for wheelchair services; and what the reasons are for the time taken to publish the model; [261548]

(3) what estimate he has made of likely reductions in waiting times for *(a)* assessments for and *(b)* access to powered wheelchairs resulting from the proposed new model for wheelchair services; [261549]

(4) whether he plans to discuss his proposed new model for wheelchair services with *(a)* wheelchair users with multiple sclerosis and *(b)* other wheelchair service users and their carers. [261550]

Phil Hope: Discussions are ongoing within the Department on the future model for wheelchair services so as to ensure that a model is developed which is suitable for the national health services and service users.

Stakeholder views are key in the development of any new model of service provision and wheelchair service user groups worked with the Care Services Efficiency Delivery programme on the future model for wheelchair services. Departmental officials have had and will continue to have meetings involving all groups of wheelchair service users and their carer, including multiple sclerosis, when required.

Waiting times, assessments and access to powered wheelchairs are the responsibility of the NHS and these data are not collected by the Department.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Banks: Foreign Workers

Mr. Weir: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he has had discussions with representatives of banks on the off-shoring of their management and IT functions; and what the outcome of these discussions was. [260978]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 5 March 2009]*: I have not had any meetings with representatives of banks to discuss the off-shoring of their management and IT functions.

Business: Terminology

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what definition of a micro business his Department uses. [260058]

Ian Pearson: The Department defines a micro business as a business with nine or fewer employees.

Construction: Billing

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effect on the time taken to make payments to subcontractors of the requirement on Government bodies to pay invoices submitted by tier one contractors within 10 days. [258749]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 25 February 2009]:* Prompt payment helps the cash flow of sub-contracting companies. Departments are encouraging their tier one contractors to pass on the 10 day payment terms to their subcontractors.

Departmental Correspondence

Mr. Shepherd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he plans to reply to the letter of 20 February 2009 from the editors of the Birmingham Post, the Birmingham Mail and the Coventry Telegraph on his Department's response to the communiqué from the West Midlands auto industry summit. [259308]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 27 February 2009]:* The Secretary of State has responded.

Departmental Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which trade unions are recognised in his Department. [262074]

Mr. McFadden: This Department recognises three trades unions: FDA, Prospect and the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS) which are all members of the Council of Civil Service Unions.

Easter

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will bring into force the principal provision of the Easter Act 1928 fixing the date of Easter. [261801]

Mr. McFadden: We have no plans to implement the Easter Act 1928. It remains on the Statute Book but the Act requires that before a draft order is laid before Parliament

"regard shall be had to any opinion officially expressed by any Church or other Christian Body."

At this time, the churches have not all expressed a desire or willingness to move to a fixed Easter.

Electronic Equipment: Waste Disposal

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what procedures are in place under the EU Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive to ensure that the independent audit of transfrontier shipments complies with the terms of the Directive. [259342]

Ian Pearson: Under the UK Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) regulations, exporters who issue evidence of treatment and recycling must be approved by the appropriate environment agencies. Evidence notes can only be issued by exporters in respect of WEEE that has been exported in accordance with EU legislation on waste shipments. Under the WEEE regulations, exporters must maintain records that demonstrate that the reported treatment and recycling has taken place. These records must be made available for the agencies to audit and, in the case of larger exporters, are subject to independent audit.

Environmental Transformation Fund

Colin Challen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which projects for which his Department is responsible receive funding from the Environmental Transformation Fund; how much each has received from the Fund since its inception; and what new projects are planned. [259359]

Ian Pearson: The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) is not responsible for any projects currently receiving funding from the Environmental Transformation Fund. The domestic element of the Environmental Transformation Fund, which was formerly jointly led by BERR and the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), has been led by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) since the creation of DECC in autumn 2008. DEFRA and the Department for International Development (DfID) are jointly responsible for the separately managed international element of the fund.

Government Departments: Procurement

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the cost of running the *(a)* CompeteFor website and *(b)* supply2.gov website was in each of the last three years; how many unique visitors each site received in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [253638]

Ian Pearson: The running costs for CompeteFor are as follows:

Year 1 (December 2007 to March 2008) £220,000

Year 2 (April 2008 to March 09) projected at £1,241,000

The CompeteFor site has had 54,000 businesses register since launch in January 2008.

Supply2.Gov.uk is operated under a concession type contract whereby the supplier carries all of the commercial risk. Initial set up costs totalling £120,000 were borne by the Department of Trade and Industry in 2006. In 2008-09 BERR funded the provision of a free trial for businesses which ran between 1 May and 31 July 2008, at a cost of £110,310 (ex VAT). No other payments have been made in relation to the portal.

The breakdown of supplier registrations into financial year is as follows:

Year 1 (Launch to March 2007) - 43,050

Year 2 (April 2007 - March 2008) - 31,256

Year 3 (April 2008 - Jan 2009) - 50,872

Total registrants since launch to the end of January 2009 was 125,178.

Job Creation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he has taken to create British jobs for British workers since 24 September 2007. [258709]

Ian Pearson: The Government have announced a series of measures to support businesses and families through the financial crisis. A summary of these measures are set out in "The Road to the London Summit: the plan for recovery". Copies of the document are available in the Libraries of the House.

Manufacturing Industries: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much the European Investment Bank has given in loans to each automotive company for investment in lower carbon initiatives since 27 January 2009. [260615]

Ian Pearson: The European Investment Bank (EIB) is currently assessing a number of applications received under its clean transport facility from UK and other European automotive companies following the doubling of the clean transport facility budget in December 2008.

Motor Vehicles: Government Assistance

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of applications by individuals for car loans which were rejected in each

month since January 2008; what assistance he plans to give to individuals to secure finance for the purpose of purchasing a new car; and if he will make a statement. [259052]

Ian Pearson: The Government do not routinely collect information on individual car loan rejections. My noble Friend, the Minister for Trade and Investment, is exploring what solutions can be found to enable the car finance industry to access credit. He is consulting with a range of interested parties, including the Bank of England, banks and the motor finance industry.

Redundancy

Ms Keeble: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* women and *(b)* men who were made redundant in each of the last four quarters for which figures are available. [262425]

Mr. McFadden: The level of redundancies, split by gender, in the United Kingdom in each of the previous four quarters is given in the following table.

Redundancy levels

2008	Male	Female	Thousand Total
Q1	75	36	111
Q2	76	51	127
Q3	91	65	156
Q4	177	82	259

Source:
Labour Force Survey, ONS

Retail Trade: Havering

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to assist the retail industry in the London Borough of Havering; and if he will make a statement. [261136]

Mr. Thomas: BERR recognises the positive contribution the retail sector makes to local, regional and national economies.

Through Business Link, the Capital's retail sector, including the retail industry in Havering, can access mainstream Government business support products which encourage increased productivity, skills, innovation and opens up new business opportunities.

The Government are also providing businesses, including retailers, with 'Real Help Now' which consists of targeted products and initiatives to help firms during these tough economic times.

Saudi Arabia: Arms Trade

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) when the Export Credits Guarantee Department granted an indemnity for the Al-Yamamah Saudi-British Defence Co-operation Programme; and what the present status of this indemnity is; [257401]

(2) when the Export Credits Guarantee Department granted an indemnity for the Salam Project; and what the present status of the indemnity is. [257402]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* Since 1989 ECGD has provided consecutive insurances and indemnities to BAE Systems (Operations) Ltd in respect of the Al Yamamah programme (now known as the Saudi British Defence Co-Operation Programme), the last of which was a five year Indemnity issued in 2006, to which, in 2007, the Salam programme was nominated for cover in accordance with the terms of the Indemnity. The Indemnity was terminated by BAE Systems (Operations) Ltd with effect from 1 September 2008.

Small Businesses: Procurement

Margaret Moran: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will remove charges to small and medium-sized enterprises for use of *(a)* Supply2gov and *(b)* Catalist. [257034]

Ian Pearson: The Department is working to ensure that the principal recommendation of the Glover Review, a single, free of charge, easy to search portal is launched by 2010. 95 per cent. of supply2.gov.uk users are currently registered for the free of charge service. OGC Buying Solutions do not charge suppliers of any size to be on catalyst.

Margaret Moran: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will simplify and speed up the procurement process for *(a)* small and medium-sized enterprises and *(b)* social enterprises supplying the public sector. [257035]

Ian Pearson: The Department is working with the Office of Government Commerce to implement all 12 recommendations made in the Glover Review, "Accelerating the economic engine: through transparent, simple and strategic procurement", published in November 2008, which aims to simplify and speed up the procurement process for SMEs wanting to supply goods and services to the public sector.

Working Capital Scheme

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) how many businesses have sought access to funds under the Working Capital Scheme; [256167]

(2) how many businesses are currently in receipt of assistance under the Working Capital Scheme. [256168]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 11 February 2009]:* The Working Capital Scheme is not available directly to businesses. The scheme is designed to enable participating banks to increase the amount of working capital they can make available to businesses.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* apprenticeships and *(b)* advanced apprenticeship places there were in (i) his Department and (ii) the agencies for which he is responsible in the most recent year for which figures are available. [251974]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Government Skills will be preparing a table of Departments participating in the national apprenticeship partnership in 2008-09 and the number of apprentices on the programme.

The Department of Energy and Climate Change has been formed by bringing together work previously covered by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. As a new Department it is not yet participating in the partnership. It will in due course develop its policy in relation to apprenticeships.

Carbon Emissions

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of delivering a reduction of one tonne of carbon dioxide under the Carbon Reduction Commitment. [262717]

Joan Ruddock: Analysis indicates that the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) will result in an overall net present value benefit to participants of around £1 billion.

The CRC is designed to help secure emissions reductions cost-effectively from across the economy, and will promote changes in behaviour and infrastructure. The costs to the public purse per tonne of carbon dioxide will be close to zero, as carbon savings have been modelled to be at least 4 Mt CO_2 by 2020. Only the costs of the initial setting up of the scheme and enforcement action by the regulators will be paid from the public purse. It is designed to be broadly revenue-neutral to the Exchequer.

The revenue raised from the sale of allowances will be recycled to participants. For participants taken as a whole, the costs of participating will be outweighed by the savings from the reduction in energy bills.

Carbon Emissions: Barnsley

Mr. Illsley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will make an assessment of the reductions in carbon dioxide emissions achieved by Barnsley Metropolitan borough council through pilot trials of burning wood pellets in fossil fuel appliances. [258276]

Joan Ruddock: The reports submitted by Barnsley metropolitan borough council to the Department do not provide sufficient quantifiable evidence to enable a review of the potential carbon savings which the pilot trials may have achieved. I understand the trials were primarily concerned with assessing the feasibility of using wood pellets as fuel in boilers originally designed to use coal.

Carbon Trust: Public Relations

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what payments the Carbon Trust has made to *(a)* Fishburn Hedges, *(b)* Grayling Political Strategy, *(c)* Weber Shandwick Public Affairs and *(d)* Citigate Public Affairs in each of the last five years; and on what date and for what purpose the payment was made in each case. [255939]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Carbon Trust is a private company limited by guarantee, and details of payments made are therefore a matter for the Trust's Board.

The Department has been informed that the Carbon Trust has made payments to Fishburn Hedges, Grayling Political Strategy, and Weber Shandwick Public Affairs, for promoting energy efficiency and low carbon technology and advice on government affairs strategy, within the last five years.

Coal Fired Power Stations: Kingsnorth

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change during what periods in July and August 2008 the power generation units at Kingsnorth power station were *(a)* operating at full capacity, *(b)* operating at limited capacity and *(c)* turned off; and if he will make a statement. [261845]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 9 March 2009]:* I am advised by E.ON UK that, during July and August 2008, Kingsnorth power station, excluding its auxiliary gas turbines, was generating power for slightly less than half of that time and was generating no power for the remainder of the period. At no time during the period were all the station's units operating at full load.

The output of each unit can vary significantly from day to day. More detailed information is available on the operating regime of each unit and the company would be happy to supply this if the hon. Member wishes to write to E.ON UK.

Combined Heat and Power

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to publish the results of his Department's modelling of the effects of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme phase 3 on combined heat and power plants. [262111]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We hope to publish projections of Combined Heat and Power (CHP) capacity, including the possible effects of Phase III of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme, during the period for consultation on the Heat and Energy Saving Strategy which closes on 8 May 2009. The projections in this report will include input from developers on their likely investment in the future energy market.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what account will be taken of carbon dioxide emission levels from combined heat and power installations in the benchmarking allocation under phase 3 of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. [262112]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The revised EU Emissions Trading Directive agreed in December 2008 sets out the principles by which free EU allowances will be distributed to installations, including those with combined heat and power. These principles are:

The allocation should be ex-ante i.e. based on historic data and not adjusted ex-post;

The allocation should give incentives to reduce emissions and take into account efficient techniques such as high efficiency combined heat and power (CHP);

The allocation should be calculated for final products rather than inputs to maximise emissions reductions and;

The starting point shall be the average performance of the 10 per cent. most efficient installations in a sector or sub-sector in the EU in 2007-08.

The final allocation rules are due to be agreed by 31 December 2010.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he plans to take to support the financing and development of heat networks. [262113]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government have set out a number of possible measures to encourage the development of heat networks and district heating in the consultation on the Heat and Energy Saving Strategy, published on 12 February 2009.

Departmental Conferences

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what conferences his Department has organised since its creation. [257590]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Since DECC's creation on 3 October 2008, the Department has organised the following conferences:

Date	Subject
29 October 2008	Regional delivery of biomass heat and power
18 to 19 December 2008	The London meeting of international energy and oil Ministers.
29 January 2009	Hydrogen Workshop to inform hydrogen stakeholders of the forthcoming Technology Strategy Board (TSB) call for fuel cells and hydrogen R and D and to enable TSB and DECC to understand the aspirations of the hydrogen energy sector, particularly with regard to research and development.
30 January 2009	Stakeholder workshop to inform stakeholders of proposals for the review of exemption orders under the Radioactive Substances Act 1993.
4 February 2009	Business forum held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, focusing on opportunities for co-operation in the field of oil and gas.
11 to 12 February 2009	Advanced power generation technology forum annual workshop
12 February 2009	Launch of consultations on Heat and Energy Saving Strategy (HES), Carbon Emission Reduction Target (CERT) and Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP)

Departmental Electricity Generation

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been spent by his Department in *(a)* capital expenditure and *(b)* maintenance and running costs for standby diesel generators for backup electricity on the departmental estate since October 2008. [260421]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Since October 2008, there has been no capital expenditure on standby diesel generators on the DECC estate. £720 has been spent on maintenance and running costs for the standby diesel generator in DECC's London headquarters in 3 Whitehall Place by DEFRA's Estates Division, who currently manage this generator. No maintenance and running costs have been incurred by DECC.

Departmental Impact Assessments

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many equalities impact assessments his Department has undertaken in the last 12 month period for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of such assessments. [255075]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Since the Department's creation on 3 October 2008, DECC has undertaken six equalities impact assessments (EIAs). Since undertaking equalities impact assessments is integrated into the Department's policy making process, it is not possible to estimate any specific cost associated with the EIAs.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will publish a copy of his Department's website accessibility plan. [257239]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department's website (www.decc.gov.uk) is already designed to be fully accessible to Level Double-A standard of the W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines, in accordance with the Central Office of Information's guidelines. Further information on the DECC website's accessibility can be found at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/accessibility/accessibility.aspx

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* food since its inception. [261170]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department's financial transactions are processed by the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. Neither system collects spend in sufficient detail to identify alcohol and food separately. Therefore, the Department could not answer this question without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many and what percentage of letters sent by his Department were given to *(a)* the Royal Mail and *(b)* another postal services provider for delivery in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [259965]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: DECC does not currently have a correspondence unit. Correspondence is handled on behalf of DECC by DEFRA and BERR and I therefore refer my hon. Friend to the responses provided by those Departments.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much funding was allocated to the *(a)* Waste and Resources Action

Programme, *(b)* Carbon Trust, *(c)* Energy Saving Trust, *(d)* National Industrial Symbiosis Programme, *(e)* Envirowise and *(f)* Nuclear Decommissioning Authority in each year since 1997; and how much he expects each organisation to receive from the public purse in each of the next six years. [257667]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 23 February 2009]*: The following table details the funding allocated to the *(a)* Waste and Resources Action programme, *(b)* Carbon Trust, *(c)* Energy Saving Trust, *(d)* National Industrial Symbiosis programme, *(e)* Envirowise and *(f)* Nuclear Decommissioning Authority in each year since 1997.

This Department funds the Carbon Trust (CT), the Energy Saving Trust (EST) and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA).

The CT was established in 2001 and in the past received funding from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR). CT figures do not include funding from the devolved administrations.

Previously, the EST received funding from DEFRA, the Department for Transport, BERR (formerly the Department of Trade and Industry) and the Scottish Administration.

The NDA became operational on 1 April 2005. It is funded by a combination of Government funding and commercial income. The funding for the NDA for 2008-09 is expected to be around £3 billion, of which £1.5 billion is Government funding. The total funding for the NDA for the three year spending period to 2010-11 is expected to be around £8 billion, of which £5 billion is Government funding.

The National Industrial Symbiosis programme (NISP) is funded by DEFRA as is Envirowise (which until 2006-07 was jointly funded with BERR) and the Waste and Resources Action programme (WRAP). The allocations for NISP, Envirowise and WRAP do not include funding from the Devolved Administrations. The NISP and WRAP programmes were not operational in the years for which figures have not been provided.

Funding in 2009-10 for some delivery bodies has yet to be confirmed while the funding for all bodies for years beyond that has yet to be determined.

£ million

	WRAP	*Carbon Trust*	*EST*	*NISP*	*Envirowise*	*NDA*
1997-98	n/a	n/a	2	n/a	7	n/a
1998-99	n/a	n/a	2	n/a	7	n/a
1999-2000	n/a	n/a	19	n/a	6	n/a
2000-01	n/a	n/a	25	n/a	7	n/a
2001-02	9	3	39	n/a	4	n/a
2002-03	21	26	49	n/a	6	n/a
2003-04	24	51	50	n/a	6	n/a
2004-05	56	54	71	n/a	5	n/a
2005-06	72	61	72	3	12	2,420
2006-07	66	82	58	6	16	2,586
2007-08	62	[1]102	74	10	22	2,593
2008-09	43	90	55	5	9	2,880
2009-10	43	—	—	5	9	2,760

[1] includes £14,001,000 of accrued income—i.e. income payable to the Carbon Trust under arrangements for 2007-08, but disbursed in 2008-09 when funds were required.

Departmental Sick Leave

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) how many staff in his Department and its predecessors were on sick leave for *(a)* over 30 days, *(b)* over 50 days and *(c)* over 100 days in each of the last five years; [256323]

(2) what the average number of days of sick leave per staff member in his Department has been since it was established; [256381]

(3) how many staff in his Department were recorded as having been on sick leave for over 12 months on 31 December 2008. [256640]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department of Energy and Climate Change has been formed by bringing together work previously covered by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Sickness absence records are currently held by the two legacy departments and a system for bringing these records together will be implemented for the new reporting year 2009-10. Until this system is in place the Department would incur a disproportionate cost in reporting these figures.

Economic Situation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what *(a)* summits, *(b)* conferences and *(c)* seminars his Department has hosted since its inception at which a primary subject of discussion was the effect of the economic situation on matters within his Department's responsibility. [259749]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: At the meeting in London on 18-19 December 2008 of Energy and Oil, Ministers considered the impact of the economic and financial crisis on the oil market.

In addition, Ministers and officials have regular engagements with other organisations including relevant Government Departments on a range of issues relating to the economy.

Energy Supply: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which body is responsible for the maintenance of power lines in Gloucestershire; and how many *(a)* repairs, *(b)* upgrades and *(c)* scheduled maintenance visits were made in (i) Gloucestershire and (ii) Stroud constituency in each of the last five years. [248138]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Central Networks are responsible for the maintenance of power lines in Gloucestershire. I regret that figures for the number of repairs, upgrades and scheduled maintenance visits are not held centrally.

Energy: Meters

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) whether priority in the introduction of smart meters will be given to communities where there is high use of pre-payment

meters combined with a large number of people in fuel poverty; and if he will make a statement; [260917]

(2) when the introduction of smart meters will begin; and in which areas. [260914]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government announced on 28 October last year that we will mandate the provision of smart meters to all households. We are currently considering a range of policy issues linked to the implementation of this policy. We will make further announcements on these issues and the next steps towards roll out when we are able to do so.

Energy: Prices

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to ensure that members of the public are aware of the social tariffs offered by energy utilities. [261602]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Suppliers agreed at the Fuel Poverty Summit organised by Ofgem in April 2008 to provide greater visibility of their offers. Following this Ofgem have worked with the suppliers to ensure that information about their social tariffs and programmes and a contact phone number for consumers to check their eligibility is available on all the suppliers' websites.

Energy suppliers have committed to collectively spend £100 million this year, rising to £125 million next year and £150 million by 2011 on social assistance. In order to meet this commitment to Government suppliers need to inform their customers about the assistance available to vulnerable groups through their social tariff scheme.

Expenditure on suppliers' social assistance is monitored by Ofgem and they estimated, in a report published in December 2008, that over 800,000 customer accounts are now benefiting from a social tariff. This is a significant increase, almost doubling, since March 2008 which is a good indication of the level of awareness of the assistance suppliers offer.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what information his Department holds on the average length of time a customer has to be with an energy supplier before being able to apply for *(a)* a social tariff and *(b)* a discounted tariff with that supplier; [262127]

(2) how many and which energy suppliers offer a social tariff as defined by Ofgem; and if he will make a statement. [262128]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 9 March 2009]:* The Department does not hold any specific information on the average length of time a customer has to be with an energy supplier before being able to apply for a social or discounted tariff.

In their most recent report on suppliers' social spend for 2007-08 available online:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/SocAction/Suppliers/CSR/Documents1/Monitoring%20Suppliers%20social%20spend%20171.08.pdf

published in December 2008, Ofgem supplied details of the qualifying criteria for the suppliers' social and discounted tariffs. This information shows that there is no minimum qualifying period for a customer to be eligible for suppliers' social and discounted tariffs. The only exception is E.On's WarmAssist tariff, where a customer has to be with the company for at least a year before qualifying.

In its report in July:

http://www.ofgem.gov.uk/Sustainability/SocAction/Suppliers/CSR/Documents1/Monitoring_suppliers_10508.pdf

Ofgem set out its new criteria for what constitutes a social tariff. It proposed that for the financial year 2008-09, a supplier's social tariff had to be as good as the standard direct debit tariff but going forwards, a social tariff has to be at least as good as the lowest tariff in a customer's area.

SSE's, ScottishPower's and E.On's social tariffs are already consistent with the new definition. EDF, British Gas and Npower have been reviewing their social tariffs and will look to launch new versions to comply with the new definition in financial year 2009-10 as set out by Ofgem.

Fuel Poverty: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* people and *(b)* households in the Hemel Hempstead constituency that are in fuel poverty. [261270]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The most recent year for which constituency level estimates of fuel poverty are available is 2003. The data for fuel poverty levels for 2003 come from the Fuel Poverty Indicator dataset, available online at:

http://www.fuelpovertyindicator.org.uk/

In 2003, there were around 2,000 households in the constituency of Hemel Hempstead living in fuel poverty.

Fuel poverty is not measured at an individual level.

Housing: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Charles Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has awarded under Phase 2 of the Low Carbon Buildings programme to *(a)* charitable sector organisations and *(b)* each public sector department and body. [258458]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The following charitable sector organisations and public sector departments and bodies have been awarded the following amounts of money under Phase 2 of the Low Carbon Building Programme:

Type of organisation	*Ground source heat pump*	*Wind turbine*	*Solar thermal*	*Photovoltaic*	*Biomass boilers*	*Total*
Housing Association or Trust	439,738	11,061	1,805,354	4,212,658	16,363	6,475,175
Local Authority	858,714	211,175	402,121	3,511,459	158,483	5,140,954

Type of organisation	Ground source heat pump	Wind turbine	Solar thermal	Photovoltaic	Biomass boilers	Total
School	363,359	572,521	261,857	6,130,659	24,710	7,353,068
University	66,013	—	—	968,359	—	1,035,172
Hospital	33,017	—	4,143	108,792	—	145,952
Public sector subtotal	1,751,682	798,757	2,473,477	14,931,885	199,558	20,151,280
Local community group	50,951	—	41,156	478,052	—	576,159
Registered Charity	598,666	227,820	184,928	2,193,399	143,201	3,349,961
Company Ltd	64,917	36,400	16,792	194,780	—	312,889
Environmental Trust	—	20,570	—	8,423	—	29,001
Other	118,910	42,812	73,559	1,741,242	45,380	2,021,911
Charitable sector sub-total	830,400	327,610	316,435	4,615,896	190,581	6,289,921
Total	2,591,082	1,122,367	2,789,912	19,547,780	390,139	26,441,200

Lord Truscott

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what correspondence his Department has *(a)* received from and *(b)* sent to Lord Truscott since its creation. [256918]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Since its creation, DECC has received one letter and three e-mails from Lord Truscott or his office, and has sent one e-mail in reply. This correspondence concerned an invitation to me to address members of the Royal United Services Institute on UK energy security issues. This proposed meeting was cancelled.

Natural Gas

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his definition of the National Balancing Point is. [251213]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The National Balancing Point (NBP) is a notional point which represents the National Transmission System (NTS) for balancing purposes. Gas trading in Great Britain takes place via the NBP, which provides a virtual trading location for buying and selling into and out of the NTS.

Nuclear Power

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what reasons the publication of Dr Tim Stone's recommendations on nuclear regulation did not take place in accordance with the originally planned timetable. [256852]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In January 2008, following the publication of the White Paper on Nuclear Power, the Government asked Dr. Tim Stone to conduct a review of the nuclear regulatory regime. We had previously indicated our intention to publish the recommendations in the autumn of 2008, but due to the need for full and careful consideration of the review this date was revised to early 2009. On 27 January 2009 we published the recommendations of Dr Stone's review.

Nuclear Power Stations

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will review his Department's policy on the construction of new nuclear power stations; and if he will make a statement. [244161]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We set out our policy on nuclear in the Nuclear White Paper. This stated that the Government will take active steps to enable new build. It says we will implement these vigorously.

This continues to be our policy and we are making progress on our facilitative actions to increase certainty and remove roadblocks to new build.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what requirements there are upon nuclear power plant operators to report to safety and environmental regulators the *(a)* instances and *(b)* quantities of radioactive gases emitted during re-fuelling; and whether such data are publicly available. [250937]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: There are no specific requirements for the reporting of radioactive gases emitted during refuelling.

Gaseous discharges from refuelling operations have been taken into account when setting station discharge limits. Discharges from refuelling operations are included in the periodic (monthly) reporting of gaseous discharges from power stations.

Nuclear Power Stations: Construction

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which sites under consideration for development for a new generation of nuclear power stations are *(a)* at or *(b)* near the present sea level. [256148]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 10 February 2009]:* The Government response to the consultation on the strategic siting assessment (SSA) was published on 27 January. This set out that nominations of sites to be considered as part of the SSA are due by 31 March. Nominations will be published soon after, and the results of the SSA will be consulted on as part of the nuclear national policy statement, later in 2009.

Nuclear Safety Directorate

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has to bring forward legislative proposals for restructuring the Nuclear Directorate; and what form he expects those proposals to take. [256851]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government's response to Dr. Stone's recommendations, also published on 27 January, announced our agreement to restructure the HSE's nuclear directorate through legislation. Officials are currently working up detailed proposals for this reform, on which we expect to consult in the summer.

Peers Interests

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether Ministers in his Department received representations from *(a)* Lord Moonie, *(b)* Lord Taylor of Blackburn, *(c)* Lord Snape and *(d)* Lord Truscott in the last seven months. [255241]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Since its creation on 3 October 2008, there is no record of Ministers in DECC having received representations from Lords Moonie, Snape or Taylor of Blackburn. In the same period, DECC has received one letter and three e-mails from Lord Truscott or his office, and sent one e-mail in reply concerning an invitation to me to address a meeting of members of the Royal United Services Institute on UK energy security issues. This proposed meeting was cancelled.

Renewable Energy

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps the Government are taking to help British businesses develop renewable energy technologies. [254904]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government are supporting a wide range of measures to stimulate the development of a portfolio of energy technologies, including renewables such as wind; wave and tidal; microgeneration and photovoltaics; and bioenergy. Public sector spending on energy technology research, development and demonstration was around £151 million in 2007-08, of which some £81 million was spent on renewables.

The Government are also providing the market mechanisms and incentives to deploy these technologies. The Renewables Obligation (RO) currently provides all technologies with the same level of support. However, under reforms, to take effect—subject to parliamentary approval—on 1 April 2009, we are introducing measures to allow banding of the RO. This will provide the generation industry with greater incentive to develop and deploy those technologies which are currently further from commercial deployment.

We will also be introducing Feed-in-Tariffs (FITs) for small scale, low carbon electricity generation and a Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) using powers bought in through the Energy Act 2008 to provide financial assistance to organisations installing renewable and low carbon energy generating technologies.

In addition my Department will be launching an Office for Renewable Energy Deployment (ORED). The ORED will have a strong role to play in tackling renewables deployment barriers related to grid, planning and the supply chain and raising public awareness.

We consulted last summer on how to meet the UK share of the EU 2020 target. Our UK renewable energy strategy consultation sought views on what more we can all do to ensure that the UK maximises business benefits, including UK jobs. We will respond to the consultation responses in the renewable energy strategy in spring this year, detailing an action plan for promoting further renewable deployment throughout the UK.

Street Lighting

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* financial and *(b)* environmental effects of introducing central monitoring systems for streetlights. [250762]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 26 January 2009]:* We have made no assessment of the financial and environmental effects of introducing central monitoring systems (CMS) for street lights.

However, Ofgem's open letter, issued in April 2008, sought views regarding whether it should seek to facilitate the development of CMS, acknowledging that some types of CMS could

"yield significant environmental and economic benefits."

Although there was substantial stakeholder engagement with the consultation, there was no clear consensus on whether there was a need for the changes proposed. Ofgem is currently considering the way forward.

Warm Front Scheme

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what reasons Eaga is not party to the contract for the supply of heating materials used in Warm Front scheme installations. [259286]

Joan Ruddock: The contract for the supply of heating materials is held between Eaga and the suppliers.

Warm Front Scheme: Essex

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many complaints on the Warm Front scheme his Department and its predecessor have received from those resident in Essex since the inception of the scheme. [260380]

Joan Ruddock: Eaga plc records and monitors all complaints received about the scheme on DECC's behalf. They have recorded upheld complaints representing 0.5 per cent. of their clients. The recent NAO report recorded 5-6 per cent. dissatisfaction with the scheme.

Since the beginning of the current phase of Warm Front in 2005, 441 complaints have been registered in Essex. Of this number, 142 were upheld.

The Department has now put in place mechanisms to record complaints received directly, though robust data are not yet available.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 11 March 2009

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Detainees

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the Government's response to paragraph 121 of the report of the Intelligence and Security Committee on the handling of detainees by UK intelligence personnel in Afghanistan, if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidance given to UK intelligence personnel prior to their deployment in respect of *(a)* the treatment of detainees and *(b)* reporting procedures in the event of concerns. [260331]

David Miliband: Guidance given to UK intelligence personnel prior to their deployment in respect of *(a)* the treatment of detainees and *(b)* reporting procedures in the event of concerns is operational, and for that reason has never been published. The guidance is based on clear principles:

Torture is both abhorrent and illegal, and that the UK should never participate, never encourage and never condone the use of torture.

The UK has obligations under both international and domestic law, including under the Convention Against Torture, and that we should act consistent with those obligations.

The UK makes it clear to our partners that we stand by the above principles.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1242W, on Guantanamo Bay: detainees, if he will place in the Library a copy of the written transfer agreement for the return of Binyam Mohamed concluded on 20 February 2009. [261819]

David Miliband: The written transfer arrangement for Mr. Mohamed's release and return from Guantanamo Bay, agreed on 20 February 2009, was a private document between the Government and the US Government. It is our long-standing policy not to comment on the detail of operational matters.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 362W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, what the objectives of the internal stock-take of Government policy in Afghanistan completed in December 2008 were. [260343]

David Miliband: The stock-take measured progress in Afghanistan from November 2007 to November 2008. It was intended to inform the Government, as part of the review announced by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister in the debate on Her Majesty the Queen's speech in December 2008.

Balkans: EC Enlargement

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent progress has been made on implementation of the EU enlargement strategy in respect of *(a)* Albania, *(b)* Macedonia, *(c)* Turkey, *(d)* Bosnia-Herzegovina, *(e)* Kosovo, *(f)* Croatia, *(g)* Serbia and *(h)* Montenegro; and which countries included in the enlargement strategy he expects to receive pre-accession funding. [262189]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 10 March 2009]:* Full details can be found in the 2008 Progress Reports at

http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/how-does-it-work/progress_reports/index_en.htm

All countries included in the enlargement strategy receive funding through the European Commission's Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA). This is due to amount to €7.58 billion overall for the period 2007-11 to support political and economic reform and preparation for EU membership. A breakdown of IPA funding by country is available at the European Commission's Multi-Annual Indicative Financial Frameworks website

http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/dont-miss/index_en.htm

Bosnia and Herzegovina: Office of the High Representative

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 27 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 34-36WS, on the General Affairs and External Relations Council, for what reasons the Council was unable to reach a conclusion on the proposed closure of the Office of the High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina; and what proposals the UK made on the matter. [261737]

David Miliband: At the General Affairs and External Relations Council on 23-24 February 2009, there was discussion of Bosnia and Herzegovina's progress towards meeting the conditions for closure of the Office of the High Representative (OHR). There was no consensus that the conditionality set by the Peace Implementation Council Steering Board in February 2008 had been met. The UK reiterated the importance of adhering to this conditionality, making clear our view that it has not yet been met. Any eventual decision on closure of the OHR will need to be taken by the Peace Implementation Council Steering Board.

Colombia: Armed Conflict

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the recent violence in north east Colombia. [262705]

Gillian Merron: The situation in North East Colombia, particularly in those rural areas bordering Venezuela, is complicated and difficult due to the activities of illegal armed groups.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office Travel Advice for Colombia currently advises against all but essential travel to all rural areas bordering Venezuela, which includes North East Colombia.

Colombia: Land Mines

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Government of Colombia on the use of landmines; and if he will make a statement. [262300]

Gillian Merron: The UK has provided training to Colombian officers on humanitarian landmine removal. Officials from our Embassy in Bogota maintain regular contact with the Colombian Ministry of Defence to help Colombia fulfil its Ottawa convention responsibilities, and remove the landmines that illegal armed groups continue to use to kill and maim innocent Colombians.

Colombia: Military Aid

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what evidence he collects on the effectiveness of the human rights training delivered to the Colombian military by the UK. [262018]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 9 March 2009]:* We monitor civil society, media and UN reports on the Colombian military's human rights performance. UK co-operation with the Colombian Ministry of Defence strongly influenced their new Integral Policy on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, and reinforced their work with UN Agencies.

While these new policies are to be welcomed, we are concerned by recent reports of abuses committed or allowed by members of the Colombian army. I issued a statement on the issue on 30 October 2008:

"The Colombian government's decision to dismiss a number of army officers as a result of recent extra-judicial killings and cases of criminal conspiracy is important. It is vital, not least for Colombia's international reputation, that the government and courts continue to show a determination to deal with human rights abuses committed by members of the armed forces, and that those convicted by the civilian justice system are punished appropriately."

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much has been spent on military aid to Colombia in each year since 1999. [262941]

Gillian Merron: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 358W.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what requirements are placed on Colombian military personnel to adhere to human rights standards before they receive UK training. [262309]

Gillian Merron: The UK requires that Colombian armed forces personnel who undertake UK training courses do not have any formal human rights convictions or pending investigations. The current policy of the Colombian armed forces is that personnel with a formal human rights allegation against their name are suspended and therefore ineligible to receive UK or any other international training.

Cyprus: USA

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his US counterpart on Cyprus. [262337]

Gillian Merron: While our Officials and Ministers maintain regular contact with their US counterparts on Cyprus, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not yet raised Cyprus with his US counterpart.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Politics and Government

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to encourage the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo to hold the local and provincial elections that have been delayed since 2006. [258847]

Gillian Merron: The UK is the largest bilateral donor supporting election processes in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). We have committed substantial funding in support of preparations for the local elections, and capacity-building for the Independent Electoral Commission. We have encouraged our international partners to do the same. Our ambassador in Kinshasa is a member of the Elections Steering Committee in the DRC, which met on 24 February 2009. There are currently serious funding gaps for local elections, which the Committee has undertaken to examine in March 2009.

Departmental Compensation

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what scheme of compensation exists for his Department's officials injured in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [261846]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 9 March 2009]:* The Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme provides benefits to members (UK Civil Servants) who suffer injury, and to the families of those who die while on duty in the UK or overseas. These benefits are provided via two schemes, an injury benefits scheme and a personal injury compensation scheme.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) also makes ex-gratia payments to its staff, both UK Civil Servants and locally engaged staff, who suffer injury or death overseas in terrorist attacks as a result of their Crown service.

In addition the FCO reimburses staff for the cost of additional premiums imposed by life insurers because of service in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 5 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1409W, on

departmental ministerial policy advisers. where Ravi Gurumurthy was seconded from; and on what date he became a special adviser. [260715]

Gillian Merron: Mr. Ravi Gurumurthy was seconded from the Department for Communities and Local Government on 28 June 2007, and is a strategic adviser and speech co-ordinator for my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1240W, on departmental public expenditure, what efficiency savings have been *(a)* made in 2008-09 and *(b)* identified for financial year 2009-10; and what the estimated saving from each is. [261937]

David Miliband: I refer the right hon. Member to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) 2008 autumn performance report published in December 2008, available online at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-the-fco/publications/publications/annual-reports/autumn-performance1

This gives the actual efficiency savings, for each efficiency project, for the first six months of 2008-09 and forecast savings for 2009-10 and 2010-11.

The FCO's departmental report, to be published in June 2009, will provide actual efficiency savings for the whole of 2008-09 and latest forecast savings for 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Embassies: Foreign Workers

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many locally-engaged staff his Department employs at each of its overseas posts; and if he will detail how many such staff at each post have been made redundant in the last 12 months. [261003]

David Miliband: Exact details on numbers of locally engaged staff at posts and redundancies are not currently held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Overseas Price Mechanism

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which *(a)* commercial banks and *(b)* independent financial experts his Department consulted on managing its exposure to foreign currency movements following the Treasury's withdrawal of support for the overseas price mechanism. [261824]

David Miliband: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office consulted with commercial banks, the Standard Chartered Bank and the Royal Bank of Scotland. We also had discussions with the Bank of England.

We took, and continue to take, advice from independent financial experts HiFX Intelligent Financial Services.

United Nations

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how he plans to report to hon. Members the outcomes of *(a)* the 53rd Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women and *(b)* the 42nd Session of the UN Commission on Population and Development. [260458]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 4 March 2009]:* The main outcome document of the UN Commission on the Status of Women is the agreed conclusions on the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including care giving in the context of HIV/AIDS. This will be disseminated across relevant Government departments. This and all other outcome documents are publicly available on the UN Commission on the Status of Women website at:

http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/agreedconclusions.html

The outcome document of the 42nd Session of the UN Commission on Population and Development will be disseminated to relevant Government departments. This document will be publicly available on the UN Commission on Population and Development website at:

http://www.un.org/esa/population/cpd/cpd2009/comm2009.htm

I will arrange for copies of the Outcome documents of the 53rd Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women and the 42nd Session of the UN Commission on Population and Development to be placed in the Library of the House.

USA: Foreign Relations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the objectives were of the recent visit to Washington by his Department's Senior Legal Adviser; and what meetings were held during the visit. [260256]

David Miliband: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office Legal Adviser visited the US on 9-10 February 2009 to pursue Government objectives related to the legal aspects of a number of foreign policy matters including in relation to the former Guantanamo Bay detainee, Mr. Binyam Mohamed. He met with officials from the Department of Justice, State Department, White House Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Central Intelligence Agency, the National Security Counsel and Department of Defence.

TREASURY

Business: Credit

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps his Department *(a)* has taken since June 2007 and *(b)* plans to take in the next 12 months to improve the flow of credit to (i) small and (ii) medium-sized businesses; what discussions (A) he, (B) other Ministers in his Department and (C) departmental officials have had with the Confederation of British Industry about the issue; and if he will make a statement. [256722]

Ian Pearson: On 19 January, the Government announced measures designed to reinforce the stability of the financial system, to increase confidence and capacity to lend, and in turn to support the recovery of the economy. Further information is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/press_05_09.htm.

These build on measures announced on 8 October last year.

The Government intend to negotiate with the banks participating in certain facilities lending responsibility agreements that will have specific and quantified lending commitments and that will be binding and externally audited.

The Government are taking specific action to meet the needs of small and medium-sized enterprises. On 14 January 2009, the Government announced a package of support to address the cash flow, credit and capital needs of smaller businesses. This package implements and builds upon the commitments the Government made in the 2008 Pre-Budget Report. Details are available at:

http://www.businesslink.gov.uk/realhelp/finance.

The Government meet with a wide range of stakeholders, including representatives of small and medium-sized enterprises. As announced in the 2008 Pre-Budget Report, the Government have established a new lending panel, which will improve monitoring of lending to households and businesses. The work of this panel is supported by the Small Business Finance Forum, established by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform in November of last year.

The Government will continue to take all necessary measures to ensure the stability of the financial system, ensure lending to the economy, businesses and homeowners, and limit the depth and duration of the current recession and support the subsequent recovery.

Child Tax Credit

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to improve the speed and efficiency of processing claims for new mothers applying for child tax credits. [262062]

Mr. Timms: For information on HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) processing aims, I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Northavon (Steve Webb) on 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 534-36W.

HMRC provides helpful guidance for prospective new claimants on its website at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/taxcredits/how-to-claim.htm

Tax credits helpline advisers also provide callers with tailored advice to help them complete their claims correctly so that tax credits are paid as quickly as possible.

Departmental Rail Travel

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance his Department issues on whether its members of staff may claim for travel in first class carriages on trains if there are no seats in standard class; and what the policy of HM Revenue and Customs is on the matter. [262031]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury's guidance to staff travelling on official business is that standard class should be used. However, first class travel may be used by staff at all levels where there is a business justification or when travelling at peak or other times when trains are likely to be crowded. In all such cases staff are required to provide an explanation for the use of first class travel when claims are made.

HM Revenue and Customs' policy is that staff travelling by rail should use standard class. However staff at Grade 7 and above may travel first class if certain conditions apply. All staff may upgrade to first class on the day of travel if no standard class seats are available on the rail journey being taken.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his Department's policy is on holding departmental away days outside the Department's buildings; and what the policy of HM Revenue and Customs is on the matter. [262026]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs have no central policy on the holding of away days. The Departments both have a responsibility to provide their staff with the right skills and expertise and use a variety of means to do so.

Equitable Life

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the statement of 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 377-80, on Equitable Life, what his estimate is of the length of time it would take to make compensation payments as recommended by the Ombudsman; and what estimate he has made of the time it will take for all compensation in accordance with the Government proposals to be made. [255751]

Ian Pearson: The Government intend to set up an ex-gratia payment scheme that can pay out as swiftly as possible, taking account of the practical considerations involved. The Government will work on these practical issues in parallel with the work that they have asked Sir John Chadwick to undertake. Until the work is complete, it will not possible to make an estimate of how long it will take to make payments under the scheme. The Government will keep the House updated and report back on progress at regular intervals.

Excise Duties: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will defer the changes to vehicle excise duty planned to be introduced in 2010 in order to assist the automotive sector. [261876]

Angela Eagle: The 2008 pre-Budget report announced both standard and first year rates of vehicle excise duty for 2010. Under the standard rates, no driver will pay more than £30 extra in any given band in 2010 compared with 2009 and many will see a reduction of £30.

Under the new first year rates, cars emitting between 100 to 130 grams per kilometre of carbon dioxide will pay no vehicle excise duty in the first year of registration and cars emitting up to 165 grams per kilometre will pay no more than under the standard rate.

Overseas Price Mechanism

Mr. Hague: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the reasons were for his Department's decision to withdraw support for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's overseas pricing mechanism; and when the decision was made. [262094]

Yvette Cooper: The decision to abolish the Overseas Price Mechanism was taken in the autumn of 2007 as part of the broader agreement for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in the 2007 comprehensive spending review. The OPM protected the FCO from currency fluctuations but it did not provide the Department with the incentive to factor in medium-term changes in currency costs when it allocated its resources. As part of the CSR07 agreement, the Treasury allowed the FCO to engage in forward currency markets to better manage short-term currency risk. This change brought the FCO into line with practice in other Government Departments.

Public Works Loan Board

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the weighted average for the *(a)* maturity and *(b)* duration of advances to local authorities from the Public Works Loans Board was in each month between 2000 and 2008. [258889]

Angela Eagle: The data are not collated monthly. The annual figures are as follows:

		Years
Year ending 31 March	*(a) Average maturity*	*(b) Modified duration*
2000	n/a	n/a
2001	21.040	10.710
2002	20.385	10.069
2003	19.647	10.334
2004	19.649	10.452
2005	20.438	10.871
2006	22.408	12.038
2007	27.532	13.113
2008	29.484	14.413

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average *(a)* fixed and *(b)* initial variable interest rate applied to advances to local authorities from the Public Works Loan Board was in each month between 2000 and 2008. [258890]

Angela Eagle: The data are not collated on a monthly basis. The annual figures are:

Year ending 31 March	*(a) Fixed (percentage)*	*(b) Variable (percentage)*
2000	4.625	5.500
2001	4.875	5.563
2002	4.875	4.100
2003	4.434	3.797
2004	4.340	4.209
2005	4.694	4.916
2006	4.190	4.579
2007	4.288	5.507
2008	4.553	5.802

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much local authorities borrowed from the Public Works Loan Board at *(a)* a fixed and *(b)* a variable rate of interest in each month between 2000 and 2008. [258891]

Angela Eagle: Monthly data are available only at disproportionate cost. The annual figures are as follows:

		£ million
Year ending 31 March	*(a) Fixed*	*(b) Variable*
2000	6,182.9	788.2
2001	5,005.8	319.4
2002	3,344.9	1,097.4
2003	3,642.8	1,456.4
2004	3,153.4	1,449.8
2005	5,604.9	217.1
2006	8,880.1	71.9
2007	12,277.1	77.2
2008	8,275.7	1.0

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much debt owed to the Public Works Loan Board was redeemed early by local authorities in each month between 2000 and 2008. [258892]

Angela Eagle: Monthly data are available only at disproportionate cost. The annual figures are as follows:

Year ending 31 March	*Early repayments (£ million)*
2000	2,950.0
2001	2,063.4
2002	2,123.6
2003	4,166.0
2004	4,596.9
2005	3,080.7
2006	2,501.4
2007	10,698.5
2008	6,433.6

DEFENCE

Apprentices

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the package of delivery designed by Metrix for the Defence Training Review project will offer apprenticeships to the *(a)* standards and *(b)* accreditation delivered by the Defence College of Aeronautical Engineering; and what provision will be made in the package for apprenticeship training to an accredited standard. [262635]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As part of the requirement for the Defence Training Review (DTR) Package 1, Metrix will transform and modernise existing training, which will involve the re-accreditation of any transformed modules. This re-accreditation will be led by Nord Anglia, the Open university and City and Guilds, who are all respected and leading accreditation specialists. For the Defence College of Aeronautical Engineering, and all the technical training under Package 1, any existing accreditation will remain in place until a re-designed package is approved by the Ministry of Defence, which includes any proposals for changes to apprenticeship training.

All Defence training (including accreditation implications) must adhere to a robust and established change process under the Defence systems approach to training to approve any change, and meet stringent defence and Government policy guidelines. The Department is recognised as an example of good practice with respect to apprenticeships and remains committed to maintaining this reputation.

Armed Forces: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current *(a)* outflow and *(b)* voluntary outflow (i) numbers and (ii) rates for each pinch point trade in the Armed Forces are. [257676]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As I set out in my answer of 15 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1704-05W, and 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1521-26W, some of the information requested is not available; this position remains the case. I have provided as much information as possible for the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force although it is not possible to provide inflow rates for the Royal Navy pinch points due to the configuration of the pinch point trades on the joint personnel administration (JPA) system. The Army is currently not able to provide any data of this kind as the information held on JPA has not been validated.

Royal Navy

	Liability	*Strength*	*Shortfall*		*Inflow*	*Outflow*	*VO*
Operational pinch point trades	*Number*	*Number*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Lt Cdr X SM Command Qualified (SM(CQ))	47	45	2	5	n/a	3	0
Lt X SM IWC Qualified and SQEP	40	39	1	3	n/a	16	7.5
Principal Warfare Officers	359	289	70	20	n/a	38	4.0
RN Harrier GR7 Instructors	7	3	4	57	n/a	1	0
GR7 Harrier Pilots: Lt	35	21	14	40	n/a	0	4.0
MCD/MWO Lts	81	47	34	43	n/a	7	3.8
Strategic Weapons Systems Junior Ranks	110	86	24	22	n/a	22	5.0
Merlin Pilots	122	78	44	36	n/a	7	2.5
Merlin Observers	116	71	45	39	n/a	1	1.5
Merlin Aircrewmen	103	80	23	22	n/a	10	14.6
Leading Seaman General Warfare	1,105	815	290	26	n/a	106	8.3
Able Rate Diver	135	95	40	30	n/a	12	10.0
Lt X SM Advanced Warfare Course Qualified (SQEP)	34	30	4	12	n/a	16	4.0
Able Rate 1 Seaman	388	291	97	25	n/a	74	16.0
Able Rate 1 Warfare Specialist	666	635	31	5	n/a	173	13.0
Able Rate 1 Communications and Information Systems	367	335	32	9	n/a	77	16.0
Leading Aircraft Controllers	73	41	32	44	n/a	5	6.5
Royal Marines Other Ranks (Pt—Cpl)	6,525	6,003	522	8	n/a	484	7.3
Able Rate Warfare Specialist (Sensors Submariner)	178	144	34	17	n/a	30	6.0
Sea-King and Lynx Avionics Supervisors	348	284	64	18	n/a	3	n/a
Cat A2 Nuclear Watchkeepers	189	157	32	17	n/a	12	6.0
Cat B Nuclear Watchkeepers	377	316	61	16	n/a	44	6.0
L Logs(CS) (P)	328	261	67	25	n/a	27	2.0
AB Logs (CS) (P)	456	447	9	2	n/a	48	6.0
L Logs (Pers)	239	222	17	7	n/a	26	4.0
AB Logs (Pers)	392	391	1	0	n/a	49	9.0
LS (MW)	70	65	5	8	n/a	3	6.0
Able Rate Warfare Specialist (Tactical Submariner)	124	116	8	7	n/a	13	7.0

Notes:
1. Outflow is to January 2009.
2. Lt X SM IWC Qualified and SQEP and Lt X SM Advanced Warfare Course Qualified (SQEP) are the same group and are 16 in total but they are two separate OPPs.
3. SQEP means Suitably Qualified and Experience Personnel, i.e. have the skills to do a particular job and in case of SM if AWC are qualified to be a Watch Leader

Army

	Liability	Strength	Shortfall		Inflow	Outflow	VO
	Number	Number	Number	Percentage	Number	Number	Number
Operational pinch point trades							
RE Clk of Wks: SSgt-WO1	248	237	11	4.4	n/a	n/a	n/a
RLC Ammo Tech: Cpl-SSgt	306	176	130	42.5	n/a	n/a	n/a
Infantry: Pte-LCpl	14,980	13,380	1,600	10.7	n/a	n/a	n/a
REME Rec Mech: LCpl-Cpl	339	213	126	37.2	n/a	n/a	n/a
RE EOD: Cpl-SSgt	131	109	22	16.7	n/a	n/a	n/a
REME VM: Cfn-Cpl	3,521	3,224	297	8.4	n/a	n/a	n/a
Int OPMI:Cpl-Sgt	708	476	232	32.8	n/a	n/a	n/a
REME Armourer: Cfn-Cpl	377	305	74	19.6	n/a	n/a	n/a
RA Gunner: Gnr-Bdr (including Para/Cdo Gnrs and OP Asst)	4,987	4,490	497	10.0	n/a	n/a	n/a
Manning pinch point trades							
AMS Radiologist: Maj+	4	2	2	50.0	n/a	n/a	n/a
AMS ITU Nurse: Cpl-Capt	121	35	86	71.1	n/a	n/a	n/a
AMS EM Nurse: Cpl-Capt	101	38	63	62.4	n/a	n/a	n/a
AMS Radiographer: Cpl+	24	12	12	50.0	n/a	n/a	n/a
AMS Anaesthetist: Maj+	49	23	26	53.1	n/a	n/a	n/a
AMS Orth Surg: Maj+	13	10	3	23.1	n/a	n/a	n/a
AMS Gen Surg: Maj+	17	10	7	41.2	n/a	n/a	n/a
REME Geo: Spr-WO2	365	284	81	22.2	n/a	n/a	n/a
RLC P&C Op: Pte-Cpl	433	435	-2	-0.5	n/a	n/a	n/a
RA UAV Op: LBdr-SSgt	370	299	71	19.2	n/a	n/a	n/a
REME Fitter: Spr-LCpl	495	409	86	17.4	n/a	n/a	n/a
AGC(SPS) Mil Admin: Pte-Sgt	2,666	2,292	374	14.0	n/a	n/a	n/a
AMS GMP: Capt+	155	137	18	11.6	n/a	n/a	n/a
R Signals IS Engr: Cpl-Sgt	252	124	128	50.8	n/a	n/a	n/a
CAMUS: Musician	300	199	101	33.7	n/a	n/a	n/a
AMS ODP: Cpl+	95	81	14	14.7	n/a	n/a	n/a
AMS RGN: Cpl-Sgt	293	263	30	10.2	n/a	n/a	n/a
REME C3S: Spr-LCpl	712	611	101	14.2	n/a	n/a	n/a
RLC Chef: Pte-LCpl	1,459	1,383	76	5.2	n/a	n/a	n/a

Royal Air Force

	Liability	Strength	Shortfall		Inflow	Outflow	VO
	Number	Number	Number	Percentage	Number	Number	Number
Operational pinch point trades							
Flying Branch (Career Stream) (Senior Officer)	677	576	101	15	100	70	20
Pilot (Junior Officer)	1,490	1,288	202	14	160	150	40
Operations Support (Intelligence)	229	224	5	2	10	20	10
Operations Support (Regiment)	275	235	40	14	30	20	10
Operations Support (Flight Operations)	224	219	5	2	20	—	—
Medical	282	213	69	24	—	10	—
Medical Nursing Officer	179	128	51	28	10	20	10
Weapons System (Operator (Crewman)	577	503	74	13	70	30	10
Weapons System Operator (Linguist)	63	50	13	21	10	10	—
Mechanical Transport Technician	355	342	13	4	—	30	20
Gunner	1,924	1,702	222	11	330	190	110
Fire Fighter	545	518	27	5	110	60	20
Air Traffic Control/Flight Operations Manager/Flight Operations Assistant	1,246	1,228	18	1	110	80	40

Royal Air Force

	Liability	*Strength*	*Shortfall*		*Inflow*	*Outflow*	*VO*
	Number	*Number*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Number*	*Number*
Logistics (Mover)	895	849	46	5	50	70	50
Manning pinch point trades							
Weapons System Officer (Junior Officer)	513	439	74	14	10	30	10
Operations Support (Aerospace Battle Manager)	342	293	49	14	10	20	10
Operations Support (Air Traffic Control)	397	371	26	6	20	30	10
Personnel (Support)	521	494	27	5	50	40	20
Personnel (Training)	219	198	21	10	10	20	10
Dental	71	57	14	20	—	10	—
Chaplains	78	63	15	19	—	10	—
Aircraft Technician (Mechanical)	4,965	4,299	666	13	10	290	200
Aircraft Technician (Avionics)	3,942	3,437	505	13	10	260	180
General Technician (Electrical)	551	491	60	11	20	70	40
General Technician (Mechanical)	963	436	527	75	20	30	20
Intelligence (Analyst)	679	590	89	13	40	30	20
Survival Equipment Fitter	607	562	45	7	30	80	40
Biomedical Scientist	15	9	6	40	0	—	—
Dental Nurse	131	122	9	7	20	10	10
Musician	175	152	23	13	10	10	—

Notes

1. Inflow equals all inflow, trained or untrained, to pinch point trades during the 12-month period 1 November 2007 to 30 November 2008. When the pinch point applies to a specific rank (Senior Officer/Junior Officer) promotions and demotions have been included.
2. Outflow equals all trained outflow from pinch point trades during the 12-month period 1 November 2007 to 30 November 2008. When the pinch point applies to a specific rank (Senior Officer/Junior Officer) promotions and demotions have been included.
3. WSO includes Navigators, Crewman, Electronic Warfare/Acoustic, Linguist and Air Eng.
4. Due to the small populations generated by this level of detail, and the possibility of identifying individual personnel, data have been rounded to 10 and totals may not always equal the sum of the parts. When rounding to the nearest 10, numbers ending in 5 have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to prevent systematic bias. "0" represents zero occurrences and "—" shows rounded to zero.
5. Due to the introduction of the new pay administration system these data are provisional and subject to review.

Armed Forces: Parades

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will bring forward proposals to increase the number of military tattoos held each year; and if he will make a statement. [254927]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Military tattoos take place in a number of towns and cities across the UK and are generally organised on a commercial basis, although most are set up and run for charitable purposes.

The major tattoos that the services plan to support this year (as in previous years) include the Edinburgh Military Tattoo and the Windsor Castle Royal Tattoo and the Royal International Air Tattoo (held at RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire). Units from the army supported the first Windsor Castle Royal Tattoo last year and it is planned to widen participation this year to include elements from the RN and RAF as well. Other tattoos, such as Birmingham, Aldershot and Durham, have also been supported by military assets in recent years and it is understood that the City of Cardiff are seeking to introduce a Cardiff tattoo in the coming years.

Armed Forces: Training

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of the Defence Training Review package he expects to be delivered outside the future Defence Academy at RAF St Athan. [262500]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: All of the training in the scope of the Defence Training Review Package 1 will, by 2020, be delivered at St. Athan, with the exception of Royal Naval Communications training at HMS Collingwood which amounts to 2 per cent. of the total training requirement. In addition, about 30 per cent. of phase 3 (professional) training will be delivered away from St. Athan at remote learning centres around the UK to enable personnel to stay near home bases and families.

Departmental Absenteeism

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff of his Department were recorded absent for non-medical reasons on *(a)* 2 February 2009 and *(b)* 3 February 2009; what estimate he has made of the (i) cost to his Department and (ii) number of working hours lost due to such absence; and what guidance his Department issued to staff in respect of absence on these days. [260476]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many contracts *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have which allow contractors to store personal data of UK citizens overseas; for which contracts this

applies; in which countries the data for each contract are held; and how many people have their data stored overseas in the case of each such contract. [245342]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence has identified eight contracts where personal data of UK citizens are held overseas. The following table provides the name of the contract, the country where the data are held and the approximate number of records.

Name of contract	*Where the data are held*	*Approximate number of personal records held*
Defence Travel: Electronic Booking Interface Service Contract	France	160,500
	USA	15,000
Defence Travel: Travel Management Contract	USA	310,000
Royal Navy Community Website	USA	9,000
E-bluey: a hybrid mail service for BFPO which allows service personnel, relatives and friends to maintain contact with each other while serving on operations or exercise for more than 60 days duration	USA	[1]150,000
External Band D Assessment Centre (CMS)	Australia	4,600
RAF Fitlinxx: provides fitness training programmes for personnel and records workout sessions	USA	8,060
DE&S Movement Management Air Reservation System	Germany	19,500
DE&S Departure Control System	Germany	4,000

[1] Including live accounts and e-blueys. This number fluctuates on a daily basis as accounts are added and deleted.

Met Office

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions his Department has had with Treasury officials on the future of the Met Office as part of the Government's Trading Fund Review; and if he will make a statement. [260205]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Officials from the Ministry of Defence and Treasury were represented on the Trading Fund Assessment Steering Group. As announced in the pre-Budget report the Met Office is now being examined as part of the Government's Operational Efficiency Programme and officials from both Departments are meeting regularly to take this forward.

Naval Bases[1]

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the monetary value of the surface ship refitting contracts was at HM Naval Base Portsmouth in each year since 1997; [261789]

(2) what the monetary value of surface ship refitting contracts was at HM Naval Base Plymouth Devonport in each year since 1997; [261811]

(3) what the monetary value of surface ship refitting contracts was at HM Naval Base Rosyth in each year since 1997. [261812]

Mr. Quentin Davies: There is no requirement to keep contractual information for surface ship upkeep work (refits and docking periods) beyond seven years. The values of contracts completed prior to 2001 are, therefore, no longer held. The following table provides the costs for upkeep work carried out since 2001 on Aircraft Carriers, Type 42 Destroyers, Type 22 and 23 Frigates, Landing Platform Dock, Royal Fleet Auxiliary and Mine Countermeasure vessels:

£ million

	Location		
	Portsmouth	*Devonport*	*Rosyth*
2001	8.9	10.3	126.2
2002	6.0	37.1	46.0
2003	23.9	5.6	35.9
2004	56.6	6.6	158.7
2005	11.5	0.0	56.3
2006	8.7	17.5	25.1
2007	27.8	37.0	21.0
2008	24.0	26.0	41.1

The figures shown for years 2001 and 2004 include upkeep work packages for the aircraft carriers HM Ships Invincible and Illustrious.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what recent assessment he has made of the *(a)* capacity and *(b)* capabilities of (i) HM Naval Base Plymouth Devonport and (ii) HM Naval Base Faslane in respect of submarines; [261808]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the *(a)* capacity and *(b)* capabilities of (i) HM Naval Base Plymouth Devonport and (ii) HM Naval Base Portsmouth in respect of surface ships. [261810]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The capacity and capability of all three UK naval bases (Clyde, Devonport and Portsmouth) are regularly assessed to ensure that they individually and collectively meet the requirements of the Royal Navy. The most recent assessment was carried out as part of the Naval Base Review (NBR), which concluded in July 2007 that all three naval bases should be retained but optimised. This optimisation work has begun at each naval base and forms an integral part of the Maritime Change Programme (MCP). MCP is developing an enduring maritime enterprise, commensurate with the Defence Industrial Strategy (DIS), that delivers affordable, sustainable and efficient Maritime build, equipment and through life support to meet the operational needs of the Royal Navy today and in the future.

Navy: Contracts

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the monetary value of surface ship refitting contracts which will be awarded to UK naval bases in the next three years. [261981]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The MOD's regular planning round is currently in progress. Until this work has been completed, it is not possible to provide a cost estimate for future Royal Navy surface ship upkeeps.

1. *[Official Report, 20 April 2009, Vol. 491, c. 1-2MC.]*

Programme Belvedere

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what standard of accommodation is being planned for Joint Helicopter Command under Project Belvedere; what criteria are being used to make the decision; and what the cost would be of upgrading RAF Lyneham to *(a)* Royal Air Force, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Army accommodation standards; [261906]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to date of Programme Belvedere; [262055]

(3) what the reasons are for the time taken to announce the outcome of Programme Belvedere; [262056]

(4) what criteria will be used in selecting an airfield for Joint Helicopter Command under Programme Belvedere; [262057]

(5) who in his Department has lead responsibility for Programme Belvedere; [262058]

(6) who in his Department is responsible for ensuring that Programme Belvedere adheres to its timetable; [262059]

(7) how long he expects production of the environmental impact assessment on the airfield to be selected for Joint Helicopter Command under Programme Belvedere to take; [262060]

(8) how long he expects the process of costing the outcome selected by Programme Belvedere to take. [262061]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Belvedere Programme is considering future basing options for the Joint Helicopter Command.

Under the strategic direction of the Defence Operating Board and a three Star military officer (the Senior Responsible Owner), the Belvedere Team Leader has day to day responsibility for the programme timetable.

The range of variables and programme uncertainties has been more complex than originally envisaged, and has inevitably had an impact on the time taken to undertake the work. The criteria against which judgments are made, for both individual airfields and combinations of airfields, include:

operating issues including aircraft numbers, command and control and flying hours; environmental issues including noise;

availability and standard of domestic and technical accommodation;

accessibility for aircraft and vehicle types; aircraft capacity of the airfield;

opportunities for efficiencies and rationalisation;

airfield location—low flying areas, training areas and local communities;

future requirements; and,

affordability and value for money.

The costs of Belvedere since it was reconstituted in June 2007 have been a little under £2 million. In addition, around £2 million has been spent on essential maintenance works at RAF Lyneham to ensure that its existing infrastructure can remain viable if Belvedere concludes that the station should be retained.

No decisions have been taken on the number of bases required, nor therefore, of any accommodation requirements at RAF Lyneham. Any new accommodation would be provided to common joint-Service standards.

Baseline noise and environmental impact assessments have been made for each of the sites being considered by Programme Belvedere. A full environmental assessment following selection of a particular option would take 11-12 months. The programme would then be delivered through a series of individual projects. Future costs would depend upon the option chosen.

The future of the Belvedere Programme is currently under consideration at senior levels within the Department.

Royal Regiment of Scotland: Manpower

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* trained, *(b)* actual strength and *(c)* numbers fit for duty requirement is for each (i) regular and (ii) territorial infantry battalion of the Royal Regiment of Scotland. [262033]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Fit for duty has been interpreted as medically fit to perform any duty. Personnel unfit for duty in their primary role but who can perform a role in an alternative capacity are therefore included in the following tables.

As at 1 December 2008, the figures for Royal Regiment of Scotland regular battalions were:

Battalion	*Trained strength*	*Actual strength*	*Fit for duty*
1 Scots	627	554	552
2 Scots	574	476	472
3 Scots	629	575	573
4 Scots	762	588	560
5 Scots	654	561	548

As at 1 January 2009, the figures for Royal Regiment of Scotland Territorial Army battalions were:

Battalion	*Trained strength*	*Actual strength*	*Fit for duty*
6 Scots	430	270	n/a
7 Scots	530	390	n/a

Data concerning fit for duty personnel are not collected for the Territorial Army and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Shareholder Executive

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions his Department has had with the Shareholder Executive as part of the Government's Trading Fund Review; and if he will make a statement. [260208]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Officials from the Ministry of Defence worked very closely with the Shareholder Executive on the Trading Funds Assessment.

Ministry of Defence officials with responsibility for the Department's Trading Funds were represented on the Trading Funds Assessment Steering Group. There were discussions on the Assessment between officials and Shareholder Executive officials and MOD Ministers.

Trading Funds

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consultation his Department has conducted with external organisations as part of the review of Government Trading Funds. [260204]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Ministry of Defence officials with responsibility for the Department's Trading Funds were represented on the Trading Funds Assessment Steering Group alongside officials from other Trading Fund owner Departments, HM Treasury, the Office of Fair Trading and the Office of Public Sector Information.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to answer Question 245342, tabled on 15 December 2008, on personal data stored overseas. [261528]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I replied to the hon. Member today.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many applications for export refunds within the Common Agricultural Policy there have been for *(a)* pigmeat, *(b)* milk and milk products, *(c)* poultry, *(d)* beef and veal and *(e)* eggs under the EC regulation currently in force in the last 12 months. [262021]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 9 March 2009]:* Commission Regulation 800/1999, which came into force on 15 April 1999, currently governs export refunds within the common agricultural policy. Since this date, the following number of applications for export refund have been made in the UK.

Sector	*Refund applications*
Pigmeat	4,174
Eggs	1,895
Poultry	7,619
Beef and Veal	11
Milk and Milk products	76,782

Animal Welfare

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government has taken to ensure the welfare of farm animals in the last 12 months. [261469]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 10 March 2009]:* The welfare of all farmed animals is protected by the Animal Welfare Act 2006, which makes it an offence to cause unnecessary suffering to any animal. The Act also contains a Duty of Care to animals—this means that anyone responsible for an animal must take reasonable steps to make sure the animal's needs are met. The Act is backed up by detailed regulations for farmed animals and species-specific welfare codes.

Animal Health carries out welfare inspections on farms to check that legislation and the welfare codes are being followed. In addition to spot checks and planned visits, Animal Health follows up all complaints and allegations of poor welfare on specific farms as a matter of urgency. In 2008, Animal Health carried out a total of 10,159 animal welfare inspections on farms.

Beekeeping

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the effects of recreational bee keepers and their practices on the bee population. [262071]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 9 March 2009]:* Recreational beekeepers, who form a substantial majority of beekeepers in the UK, play an important role in helping to combat the decline in the honey bee population, both in terms of ensuring that they practice good husbandry to maintain and increase bee numbers, and through recognising the risks of spreading pests and diseases to other beekeepers if they fail to take action. The recent National Audit Office report highlighted the large numbers of recreational beekeepers who are unknown to the authorities and so who could be unaware of the risks of spread of pests and disease. An additional £2.3 million funding was announced by the Secretary of State in January to support implementation of the initial phase of a 10 year plan to protect and improve the health of honey bees. This involves new work aimed at gaining a more accurate picture of the numbers and distribution of beekeepers and the status of the health of their colonies and increasing significantly the proportion of beekeepers registered on the National Bee Unit's Beebase database in England.

Bees: Disease Control

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his international counterparts on bee health. [261797]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 9 March 2009]:* There have been no discussions in recent years at a ministerial level on the problems affecting bee health. At official level DEFRA is working closely with other EU member states and has been in regular contact with our United States counterparts about colony collapse disorder. Members of the National Bee Unit are involved in an EU Consortium of Bee Researchers, COLOSS, which has been established to facilitate the exchange of information about abnormal colony losses and a project funded by the European Food Standards Agency which is collecting data from bee surveillance programmes currently run by EU member states.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the details of the new bee health research programme to consider the wider problems facing pollinators to be finalised; and if he will make a statement. [262067]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 9 March 2009]*: Negotiations with other potential funders are still continuing but we hope to conclude these in the next few weeks. Details of the programme will be published on the DEFRA website once these have been finalised.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the international trade in honeybees on the spread of pests and diseases in the UK bee population. [262970]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 9 March 2009]*: International trade in honeybees poses a risk of movements of pests and diseases. Consequently, imports are only allowed from a limited list of non-EC countries. Imports of honeybees into the UK are controlled by EC legislation which includes a requirement for each consignment to be accompanied by a health certificate issued by the relevant authorities in the exporting country. Imports from countries outside the Community are also subject to post import controls aimed at reducing the risk of introduction and spread of exotic bee pests, in particular, the small hive beetle and tropilaelaps mites, both of which are notifiable.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff of the National Bee Unit were responsible for research into bee health in each of the last 10 years. [262972]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 9 March 2009]*: The information is not available in the form requested. Depending on the project, bee health research can involve any of the staff in the National Bee Unit, the bee inspectors and a range of researchers from various other disciplines within the Central Science Laboratory.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many seasonal bee inspectors were employed by the National Bee Unit in each of the last 10 years. [262971]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 9 March 2009]*: The number of seasonal bee inspectors employed by the National Bee Unit in each year since 1998 is set out in the following table:

Seasonal bee inspectors employed by the National Bee Unit

	Number
1998	34
1999	38
2000	39
2001	39
2002	38
2003	39
2004	36
2005	36
2006	36
2007	36
2008	36

Departmental Data Protection

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many members of staff in his Department have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* dismissed for losing (i) memory sticks, (ii) laptop computers, (iii) desktop computers and (iv) mobile telephones belonging to his Department in each year since 1997. [248253]

Huw Irranca-Davies: No DEFRA employees have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* suspended, or *(c)* dismissed for losing (i) memory sticks, (ii) laptop computers, (iii) desktop computers, and (iv) mobile telephones belonging to the Department.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff in his Department were disciplined for *(a)* bullying and *(b)* harassment of colleagues in each of the last three years. [254088]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Seven employees have been disciplined for bullying and harassment in the last three years. One employee was disciplined in 2007, five employees were disciplined in 2008, and one employee has been disciplined in 2009.

DEFRA'S procedures do not differentiate between bullying and harassment so I am unable to provide a further breakdown.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what percentage of letters sent by his Department were given to *(a)* the Royal Mail and *(b)* another postal services provider for delivery in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [259962]

Huw Irranca-Davies: From information held centrally, the core-Department has not used any postal service provider other than Royal Mail in the last 12 months. For the period 1 February 2008 to 28 February 2009 inclusive, the core-Department gave the Royal Mail 2,037,695 letters.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether a local authority which has adopted an alternate weekly collection of household waste will be deemed to have successfully implemented a waste management and strategy and initiative for the purposes of scoring a potential bid to become a pilot. [252325]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA has no plans to run weekly collection pilots.

Food Supply: Research

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding his Department has allocated for each category of research into improving the UK's food security in each of the last four years. [257799]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 23 February 2009]*: Between 2005-09, DEFRA has invested in research activities associated with UK food security. Industry have joint funded some of the work within the LINK

programme. The LINK Programme is a co-ordinated research and innovation framework programme funded in equal share (50:50) by DEFRA and industry. Its aim is to develop near-market products and practices, for subsequent progression to the market place under full industry funding.

Total spend for each of the last four years is shown in the following table:

£ million

	Programme	
	Sustainable farming and food	*Animal health and welfare*
2005-06	38.0	40.0
2006-07	34.0	41.0
2007-08	29.0	39.0
2008-09	28.0	36.4

[1] These figures are taken from the DEFRA Science Information System database.

Incinerators: Health Hazards

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make an assessment of the registers held by the Environment Agency of reports on incinerator bottom ash for the purposes of determining whether its composition exceeds permitted levels for harmful substances. [256565]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 12 February 2009]:* Monitoring data on certain heavy metals, loss on ignition (the change in weight recorded when the ash is heated to a high temperature) and the total organic carbon in incinerator bottom ash is provided by the incinerator operators. This is placed upon the Environment Agency public registers. These data are checked by the Environment Agency upon receipt. Limits are set on loss on ignition/total organic carbon to ensure that the incinerator is operating efficiently. No breaches of these limits have been reported hence no enforcement action has been taken. Limits are not set on the heavy metal content of the ash as a permit condition. The operator is expected to carry out more detailed analysis before the ash can be disposed of.

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will consult *(a)* stakeholders, *(b)* experts and *(c)* other bodies on procedures for H14 ecotoxicity testing of incinerator bottom ash. [256566]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 12 February 2009]:* Incinerator bottom ash is not tested directly for ecotoxicity as this would involve unnecessary expense and unwarranted animal testing. Instead, chemical analysis is undertaken using standard methods and the ash is assessed for ecotoxicity by reference to the criteria for levels of dangerous substances given in the Environment Agency's Technical Guidance WM2 "Hazardous waste: interpretation of the definition and classification of hazardous waste, 2nd edition, version 2.2". The Environment Agency has been working with the Environmental Services Association to ensure that the procedures used to assess incinerator bottom ash are both robust and technically appropriate.

Insulation: Hazardous Substances

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much plastic foam insulation containing ozone depleting substances has been treated with approved methods of gas recovery in the last 12 months. [260964]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Ozone depleting substances are recovered from insulation foams in refrigerators, freezers and other equipment in specialist facilities. A small amount of insulation foam arising as construction waste is also treated in some of these plants but the quantity is unknown.

Annual reports on the tonnages of all ozone depleting substances recovered in the UK, including refrigerant fluids and halons from fire extinguishers, are provided to the EU but the Environment Agency does not hold information on the amounts derived from individual sources. Data are not yet available for 2008.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* enforcement notices have been issued and *(b)* prosecutions have been brought in respect of improper disposal of plastic foam insulation containing ozone depleting substances in each of the last three years. [260966]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The National Enforcement Database is the main recording system for data on enforcement actions carried out by the Environment Agency. The database does not provide specific information regarding offences relating to the disposal of plastic foam insulation.

The Environment Agency takes enforcement action where necessary against people who have operated illegal transfer stations, unlicensed landfills for construction/demolition waste and those who have fly-tipped this type of waste.

Landfill Tax

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what proportion and amount of revenue raised from landfill tax has been returned to local authorities in each of the last five years; [260447]

(2) whether it is Government policy that increases in landfill tax rates will be revenue-neutral for local authorities; [260448]

(3) if he will bring forward proposals to adjust local authority funding in line with changes to the rate of landfill tax in order to fund extensions to recycling services; [260492]

(4) what percentage of revenue raised through the landfill tax was reallocated directly to local authorities in each of the last five years. [261565]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answers 3 March and 6 March 2009]:* The Government worked closely with local government in CSR07 to identify the overall pressure on waste management services, including the increase in landfill tax, along with the extent to which those pressures can be mitigated. Over the CSR07 period, the overall Government grant will increase by £8.9 billion which takes into account local government's landfill tax liability,

including the increased costs resulting from the rise in the standard rate escalator from 2008-09, and allows local authorities to deliver effective services including in the area of waste management.

DEFRA is also supporting local authorities to develop alternatives to landfill through the Private Finance Initiative (PFI). To date £2.02 billion PFI Credits have been committed to 33 projects which will divert waste from landfill. There are a further 11 projects in the application process, for the remaining £1.18 billion PFI Credits currently available.

In addition the Waste Infrastructure Capital Grant provides direct funding to help local authorities put in place the front-end infrastructure needed to help them meet their landfill diversion targets.

Milk: Imports

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much liquid milk was imported into the UK in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 2000 and *(c)* 2008. [261566]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 6 March 2009]:* Liquid milk imports are shown in the following table. Liquid milk is imported into the UK in two forms, as raw milk for processing by dairies in the UK, or as liquid drinking milk (e.g. pasteurised or UHT milk).

Most imports of raw milk come from the Republic of Ireland for processing by dairies in Northern Ireland.

Imports of liquid milk to the UK

million litres

	Raw milk for processing	*Liquid drinking milk*
1997	128	150
2000	97	122
2008	30	100

Source:
DARDNI, HMRC

National Parks: South Downs

David Lepper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many postcards supporting the designation of the South Downs as a National Park have been received by his Department since December 2008. [261957]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA has received around 17,500 postcards supporting the proposed South Downs National Park since 1 December 2008.

Pollution: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many successful prosecutions have been undertaken by the Environment Agency concerning pollution in *(a)* Hertfordshire and *(b)* Dacorum in each year since 6 February 2002. [261192]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following table indicates the number of successful prosecutions undertaken by the Environment Agency concerning pollution incidents in Hertfordshire.

This information was taken from the National Enforcement Database which is the main recording system for data on enforcement actions carried out by the Environment Agency. The database does not provide information regarding offences in individual boroughs.

	Successful prosecutions
2002[1]	11
2003	9
2004	16
2005	4
2006	5
2007	30
2008	9
2009[2]	2

[1] From 6 February.
[2] To date.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many complaints have been received by the Environment Agency concerning pollution in *(a)* Hertfordshire and *(b)* Dacorum in each year since 6 February 2002. [261194]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following table shows the number of complaints received by the Environment Agency concerning pollution incidents in Hertfordshire and Dacorum.

	Incidents Hertfordshire	*Dacorum*	*Complaints*
2002[1]	471	35	534
2003	304	57	361
2004	432	39	516
2005	240	36	682
2006	390	46	472
2007	367	28	589
2008	365	29	488
2009	39	0	54

[1] From 6 February.

The Environment Agency may receive multiple complaints about one incident.

Records of complaints received by the Environment Agency which prove to unjustified are only retained for two years.

Recycling

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress his Department has made on the development of a voluntary code to encourage the positioning of accessible recycling bins in public areas. [261360]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 6 March 2009]:* DEFRA launched 'Recycle on the Go' on 2 June 2008 which aims to put accessible recycling bins in public places. A good practice guide and a voluntary code of practice is available to help those responsible for public places to make recycling easy and accessible and includes guidance on providing recycling opportunities along with provisions for the correct disposal of non-recyclable waste.

The materials, which were developed in collaboration with the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) and ENCAMS, are available on the DEFRA website at:

http://defraweb/environment/waste/recycleonthego/index.htm

WRAP's Recycle Now campaign has published guidelines for local authorities on how to make good use of the signage for recycle bins, including up-to-date brand guidelines for 'Recycle on the Go'. This, as well as artwork for bins and campaigning, can be downloaded from the Recycle Now website at:

http://www.recyclenowpartners.org.uk/local_authorities/download_area/recycle_on_the_go/index.rms

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which local authorities carry out on-street recycling. [261361]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 6 March 2009]:* Neither DEFRA nor the Waste and Resources Action Programme hold the information requested.

Recycling: Hampshire

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what reports his Department has received of allegations that Hampshire County Council is sending electronic waste for recycling to African countries; and if he will make a statement. [260600]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 4 March 2009]:* DEFRA officials have received briefings from the Environment Agency about reports of exports of waste electrical and electronic equipment from various sources to African countries. The Environment Agency is undertaking further investigations into alleged breaches of the waste shipment controls. It is not appropriate to comment on any specific investigations while they are ongoing.

The illegal export of waste is completely unacceptable and that is why DEFRA has provided funding to the Environment Agency to step up its enforcement efforts to deter this activity and catch those responsible. The rules are clear—the export of scrap TVs or scrap computer monitors to Africa is illegal. Such activity is not only potentially harmful to the environment but it also undermines the good work of legitimate charities which provide working electrical equipment to communities in developing countries.

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which trade unions are recognised in his Department. [262091]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Trade unions recognised within the Department are PCS, Prospect and the FDA.

Water: Meters

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many water meters were installed in houses *(a)* in England and *(b)* in Hemel Hempstead constituency in each year since 1997. [261263]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following table sets out the number of water meters that have been installed in houses in England and Wales since 1997. Ofwat, the economic regulator of the water and sewerage industry, does not hold data on how many meters are installed in individual constituencies.

Three Valleys Water figures are included as this company provides a water service to the constituency of Hemel Hempstead.

Because of water company supply boundaries it is not possible to separate out the number of meters installed in England alone.

Household meters installed in England and Wales and Three Valleys Water between 1997 and 2008

	Total in England and Wales	*Three Valleys Water*
1997-98	559,156	15,183
1998-99	486,043	27,291
1999-2000	352,997	16,305
2000-01	233,487	11,033
2001-02	241,108	10,111
2002-03	236,361	16,555
2003-04	295,053	27,231
2004-05	261,982	21,163
2005-06	325,756	38,965

Western Sahara: Fisheries

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advice his Department issues to the fishing fleet on fishing in waters off *(a)* Western Sahara and *(b)* Morocco. [262831]

Huw Irranca-Davies: UK vessels that fish in the waters off Western Sahara and Morocco do so under the provisions of the EU/Morocco Fisheries Partnership Agreement. DEFRA advises that they should ensure compliance with the agreement at all times while fishing in these waters.

OLYMPICS

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many and what percentage of letters sent by her Office were given to *(a)* the Royal Mail and *(b)* another postal services provider for delivery in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [259979]

Tessa Jowell: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport does not record the number of mail items sent by individual Ministers or their offices. 100 per cent. of mail items sent by the Department are given to the Royal Mail.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much has been claimed in reimbursable expenses by special advisers in his Department in 2008-09 to date. [260361]

Ann McKechin: Costs incurred on reimbursable expenses in 2008-09, will be available only when the Department's resource accounts are fully audited and laid before Parliament. This is expected to be before the 2009 summer recess.

WALES

Devolution

9. **Bob Spink:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the constitutional settlement on devolution for the interests of Wales. [261332]

Mr. David: The Government's position on the devolution settlement for Wales is clearly set out in the 2006 Government of Wales Act. The Act has delivered on clearer responsibilities, fairer Assembly elections, simplified legislative process and enhanced powers in agreed matters. The powers conferred on the National Assembly and the Welsh Assembly Government are working well.

Welsh Economy

10. **Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues and the Welsh Assembly Government on the state of the Welsh economy. [261333]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues and the Welsh Assembly Government on the state of the Welsh economy, through my membership of the National Economic Council and my attendance at the all-Wales economic summits.

11. **Dr. Francis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions he has had on the situation of businesses in Wales in the current economic climate. [261334]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Working in close partnership, the UK Government and the Welsh Assembly Government are doing all we can to help Welsh businesses and households through these challenging times.

Prisons: Drugs

12. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales when he next plans to discuss the matter of drugs in prisons in Wales with ministerial colleagues and the Welsh Assembly Government. [261335]

Mr. David: My right hon. Friend and I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues and Welsh Ministers on a range of issues affecting Wales including prisons.

Since 1997, we have increased investment in drug treatment in prisons tenfold and greatly strengthened enforcement. As a result of this, results in mandatory random drug tests have improved from over 20 per cent. testing positive 10 years ago to 9 per cent. now.

Digital Inclusion

13. **Mr. Holloway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what progress has been made on the Government's plans for digital inclusion. [261336]

Mr. David: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State launched 'Delivering Digital Inclusion: an Action Plan for Consultation' in October 2008, setting out over 70 actions taking place across Government to tackle digital inclusion.

The consultation has now finished and the responses are currently being analysed to inform further progress. My right hon. Friend will be making an announcement in the spring on the outcome of the consultation and the appointment of a digital inclusion champion and taskforce.

Flooding: Severn Plain

14. **Lembit Öpik:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with the First Minister on cross-border flooding on the Severn plain between Caersws and Shrewsbury. [261337]

Mr. David: My right hon. Friend has regular bi-lateral meetings with the First Minister on a range of issues including environmental matters.

The Assembly Government takes flooding in Wales very seriously. It has more than doubled funding since 1999 with £5.8 million per year for local authorities and over £12 million for the Environment Agency Wales for capital improvement projects.

The Assembly Government also secured an additional £30 million from convergence funding to invest in flood and coastal erosion risk measures across Wales, £8 million for flood risk management activities and £575,000 available to the Environment Agency Wales between 2009 and 2011 to take forward a number of initiatives.

Welsh Language

15. **Michael Fabricant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales when he next plans to meet members of the Welsh Assembly to discuss the promotion of the Welsh language in Wales; and if he will make a statement. [261338]

Mr. David: I have regular meetings with Welsh Assembly Government colleagues to discuss matters relating to Wales including the promotion of the Welsh language.

Hon. Members will be aware that my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State laid the proposed Welsh Language Legislative Competence Order in Parliament on 9 February for pre-legislative scrutiny. The proposed LCO, when made, will enable the National Assembly to legislate in order to deliver the Welsh Assembly Government's commitments in respect of the language.

Christmas

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether it is his Department's policy to offer staff *(a)* additional leave entitlement for Christmas shopping and *(b)* Christmas bonus payments. [262804]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office has no policy entitling staff to either *(a)* additional leave for Christmas shopping or *(b)* Christmas bonus payments.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much has been claimed in reimbursable expenses by special advisers in his office in 2008-09 to date. [260318]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Costs incurred on reimbursable expenses in 2008-09, will be available only when the Department's resource accounts are fully audited and laid before Parliament. This is expected to be before the 2009 summer recess.

TRANSPORT

A15

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has received any proposals to dual the A15 in the last 12 months. [261800]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 10 March 2009]:* The Department for Transport has not received any proposals to dual the A15 in the last 12 months.

BAA

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 28 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 532W, on Heathrow Airport, on what dates *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* departmental officials met BAA representatives to discuss proposals for Heathrow Airport expansion in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [254949]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Since January 2006, Ministers have met regularly with BAA to discuss general aviation issues. These meetings covered a wide range of topics, which may have included the expansion of Heathrow.

Date (week commencing)	*Minister*
6 March 2006	Alistair Darling
22 May 2006	Douglas Alexander
29 January 2007	Douglas Alexander
5 March 2007	Douglas Alexander
14 May 2007	Douglas Alexander
18 June 2007	Douglas Alexander
10 September 2007	Jim Fitzpatrick
7 April 2008	Ruth Kelly
28 April 2008	Ruth Kelly
21 July 2008	Ruth Kelly
1 September 2008	Ruth Kelly

In addition to these meetings, there were other occasions on which Ministers met with BAA to discuss issues such as airport security or surface access; or to discuss airports other than Heathrow.

Due to IT changes, officials' diaries are not available before April 2008, or July 2008 in some cases. Meetings with BAA have taken place as follows:

Date	*Officials*
9 April 2008	John Parkinson (Head of Airports Policy, DFT) and Martin Jones (Head of Strategic Roads)
3 July 2008	Jonathan Moor (Director of Airports Strategy, DFT) and John Parkinson
17 July 2008	Jonathan Moor and John Parkinson
22 July 2008	Quarterly meeting with BAA, attended by Simon Webb (Director General of Internal Networks and Environment, DFT) and Jonathan Moor
26 August 2008	Jonathan Moor and John Parkinson
3 September 2008	Simon Webb and Jonathan Moor
18 September 2008	Jonathan Moor and John Parkinson
3 October 2008	Quarterly meeting with BAA, attended by Simon Webb and Jonathan Moor
6 November 2008	Jonathan Moor and John Parkinson
14 November 2008	Jonathan Moor and David Hart (Head of International Networks Analysis and Support)
24 November 2008	Jonathan Moor and John Parkinson

Again, these meetings covered a wide variety of topics, which may have included the expansion of Heathrow.

Note that officials and ministers have met with BAA following the closure of the Heathrow consultation; but none of these meetings have discussed Heathrow.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what percentage of letters sent by his Department were given to *(a)* the Royal Mail and *(b)* another postal services provider for delivery in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [259967]

Mr. Hoon: The information requested is in the following table.

	(a) Royal Mail		*(b) Other postal service*	
DFT organisational unit	*Items*	*Percentage*	*Items*	*Percentage*
Central Department: London HQ[1]	87,694	97	2,758	3
Air Accidents Investigation Branch[2]	[2]	100	[2]	0
Marine Accident Investigation Branch	[2]	99	[2]	1
Rail Accident Investigation Branch[1]	3,372	98.80	40	1.20
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency[3]	108,767,612	100	[3]	[3]
Driving Standards Agency[4]	[4]	99	[4]	1
Government Car and Despatch Agency[5]	[5]	100	0	0
Highways Agency[5]	[5]	99	[5]	[5]1
Maritime and Coastguard Agency[6]	[6]	[6]	[6]	[6]
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency[2]	[2]	100	[2]	0
Vehicle Certification Agency[2]	[2]	99	[2]	1

[1] Includes letters and other articles (parcels, packets etc) transmitted by post.
[2] No record kept of number of items sent.
[3] 100 per cent. of the mail despatched to the public is sent via Royal Mail. The only other provider is Secure Mail Services which is used to securely transport mail internally to local office.
[4] The requested information can be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, DSA estimates that around 99 per cent. of its letters are given to Royal Mail for delivery.
[5] The Highways Agency does not maintain number counts for the posting of letters. Above is an estimate.
[6] The information requested is not collected in the format requested. Cost analysis would not reflect numbers and/or percentage as the cost element is not fixed between couriers.

Departmental Press

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on newspapers, magazines and periodicals in each year since 1997. [261254]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport was formed in May 2002. Total payments coded as expenditure for magazines, newspapers and other publications in the Department's accounting systems since this date are recorded as follows:

	£
2002-03	155,654
2003-04	84,884
2004-05	68,447
2005-06	553,881
2006-07	277,389
2007-08	302,267
2008-09 to date	217,144

Magazines, newspapers and other publications are purchased to support the day to day activity of the Department. Professional journals and other trade publications are purchased to support professional activities and specialist activities such as civil engineering and contract work, the work of the Department's legal services, marine engineering activity. The 'other publications' category includes a wide range of types and may include one-off purchases.

It should be noted that the totals for 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 show the position for the Vehicle Certification Agency and Maritime and Coastguard Agency only. The remainder of the Department could provide this information only at disproportionate cost for these years.

The totals from 2005-06 onwards include all but the data from the Government Car and Despatch Agency and the Driving Standards Agency who could provide this information only at disproportionate cost.

From 2006-07 the central Department introduced a revised coding structure. Prior to this it was not possible to separate expenditure on books and purchases of other official material. The total for 2005-06 therefore includes this expenditure.

The figure provided by the Highways Agency for 2005-06 also includes publications purchased and recorded against specific road projects.

Heathrow Airport

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to ensure any disruption to travellers at Heathrow resulting from the visit to London by those attending the G20 summit is minimised. [262526]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 10 March 2009]:* The Department for Transport has been working with the organisers of the summit from the outset to ensure that the arrangements for the event involve minimum disruption to airline operators and passengers.

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will hold discussions with *(a)* the National Air Traffic Service, *(b)* the Civil Aviation Authority and *(c)* BAA plc on minimising disruption to airline operators and passengers at Heathrow airport during the forthcoming G20 summit. [262501]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport has been working with the organisers of the summit from the outset to ensure that the arrangements for the event involve minimum disruption to airline operators and passengers.

Heathrow Airport: Road Traffic

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2131W, on Heathrow airport: road traffic, what the daily traffic composition was for the main road corridors to Heathrow in 2008. [261626]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Road traffic data for 2008 are not yet available. They will be released as part of the "Road Traffic Statistics 2008: Traffic, Speeds and Congestion" publication in summer 2009.

Road traffic data for specific roads will be published at:

www.dft.gov.uk/matrix

Humber Bridge Board

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the most recent occasion was on which he or his predecessor met or spoke to a representative of the Humber Bridge Board; and if he will make a statement. [262257]

Paul Clark: The then Minister of State for Transport, my hon. Friend the Member for South Thanet (Dr. Ladyman) met with the Humber Bridge Board early in 2007 to discuss revision of interest rates on the debt owed to the Secretary of State. There have been no further discussions with the board.

Humber Bridge: Tolls

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will consider the merits of introducing a local residents' scheme for the Humber Bridge Toll; and if he will make a statement. [262258]

Paul Clark: This is a matter for the Humber Bridge Board.

Railways: Fares

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his latest estimate is of the cost to the public purse of bringing UK rail commuter fares into line with those in other European countries; on what basis he arrived at that estimate; and if he will make a statement. [261885]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 9 March 2009]:* The latest estimate was outlined at the Transport Committee by my noble Friend, the Minister of State (Lord Adonis) on 25 February. We believe lowering fares to the average levels on the continent, as estimated by Passenger Focus,

would cost a minimum of £500 million. The Government have no data independent of Passenger Focus on which to undertake modelling.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many highways authorities have introduced a street works licence scheme under the new Roads and Street Works Act 1991, as amended by the Traffic Management Act 2004. [262364]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 10 March 2009]:* Neither the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991, nor the Traffic Management Act 2004, allows for a street works licence scheme. However part 3 of the Traffic Management Act 2004, which came into force in April 2008, allows local authorities in England, with the consent of the Secretary of State, to operate a permit scheme, under which anyone carrying out works in the public highway must seek permission for those works before proceeding.

No authorities have yet been authorised to operate a permit scheme. Transport for London and 13 London boroughs submitted a London Common Permit scheme for the Department for Transport's approval in July 2008. The Department sought clarification about the proposed scheme last September and we await further information.

In January 2009 Kent county council submitted a separate application to run a permit scheme. This is being considered by officials.

Rolling Stock

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the energy consumption, exclusive of passenger capacity, of *(a)* an Intercity 225 train and *(b)* the proposed Intercity Express programme train. [261554]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 6 March 2009]:* Exclusive of passenger capacity, and when compared to an Intercity 225 train, the Super Express train will consume just over 2 per cent. less energy on a typical journey between London and Edinburgh.

The energy consumption rate increases as the train's speed increases. Super Express trains will offer faster journeys than today's Intercity 225 trains. The new trains could be made more energy efficient if they were to operate as slowly as the current trains, although this would result in a less competitive rail service.

Transport: Crimes of Violence

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many victims of violence were recorded by British Transport police in each force area in each year since 1997. [262329]

Paul Clark: This information is not held by the Department for Transport, but by the British Transport police who can be contacted at:

British Transport police
25 Camden Road
London NW1 9LN

E-mail:

parliament@btp.pnn.police.uk

JUSTICE

Graveyards: Safety

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the implementation by *(a)* churches and *(b)* local authorities of his Department's guidelines on health and safety in graveyards. [261741]

Bridget Prentice: We are now discussing with relevant representative organisations how best to obtain early feedback on our recently-published guidelines on managing the safety of memorials. We are also planning to undertake a fuller assessment, probably through a questionnaire, a year after publication.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will review the accuracy of summaries produced of his Department's guidelines on graveyard health and safety over the last three months. [261840]

Bridget Prentice: We will address any questions or concerns about the application or interpretation of the guidance on memorial safety as they come to our attention.

Legal Aid: Housing

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice at which courts in England and Wales free legal representation funded by the Government at repossession hearings is available; and how many legal advisers have been allocated to each court. [261930]

Mr. Malik: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) funds free legal representation at repossession hearings via the Housing Possession Court Duty Scheme. The scheme is available at 112 courts. There follows a full list of the courts where the scheme is available.

The LSC does not record the number of advisers per court and there is no specific number of advisers required. The LSC does require that legal aid providers ensure there is at least one adviser in court when the possession lists are heard and that all sessions are covered.

Aldershot and Farnborough
Alnwick
Ashford
Barnsley
Barnet
Basildon
Birkenhead
Birmingham
Bishop Auckland
Blackpool
Bow
Bradford
Bridlington
Brighton
Bromley
Burton on Trent
Bury St Edmunds
Cambridge
Central London
Cheltenham

Chesterfield
Colchester
Consett
Coventry
Croydon
Darlington
Dartford
Derby
Dewsbury
Doncaster
Dover
Dudley
Durham
Eastbourne
Edmonton
Folkestone
Gateshead
Gee Street Court (Clerkenwell)
Gee Street Court (Shoreditch)
Gloucester
Gravesham
Great Yarmouth
Grimsby
Halifax
Harlow
Hartlepool
Hertford
Huddersfield
Hull
Huntingdon
Ilford
Keighley
Kettering
Kidderminster
Kings Lynn
Kingston
Lambeth
Lancaster
Leeds
Liverpool
Lowestoft
Luton
Mansfield
Morpeth and Berwick
Newcastle
North Shields
Northampton
Norwich
Nottingham
Nuneaton
Oxford
Peterborough
Pontefract
Portsmouth
Preston
Redditch
Rotherham
Rugby
Runcorn
Scarborough
Scunthorpe
Sheffield
Skipton
Slough
South Shields
Southend
Southport
St Albans
St Helens
Stafford
Stoke on Trent
Stourbridge
Sunderland
Swansea
Tameside
Tamworth
Teesside
Tunbridge Wells
Wakefield
Wandsworth
Warrington
Watford
Wellingborough
West London
Weston Super Mare
Whitby
Whitehaven
Winchester
Wolverhampton
Woolwich
Worcester
Worthing
York.

In addition to the LSC funded schemes, the Department for Communities and Local Government funds 41 court desk schemes in England:

DCLG funded schemes:

Accrington
Banbury
Barnstaple
Barrow-in-Furness
Bedford
Bodmin
Bristol
Burnley
Buxton
Cirencester Magistrates
Evesham
Grantham
Harrogate
Haywards Heath
Hereford
Kendal
Lewes
Lincoln
Ludlow
Maidstone
Melton Mowbray

Nelson
Newark
Newport (I.O.W.)
Northwich
Oswestry
Penrith
Penzance
Rawtenstall
Salisbury
Shrewsbury
Skegness
Stratford
Swindon
Telford
Trowbridge
Truro
Walsall
Warwick
Worksop
Yeovil.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer to the right hon. Member for Leeds, West (John Battle) of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1500-01W, on housing: low incomes, how many people in Wales have received assistance from each of the desks established in courts to provide free legal representation at repossession hearings in each month since the scheme's inception. [261931]

Mr. Malik: Free legal representation at repossession hearings in Wales is available through Swansea county court, and details of the number of people who have received assistance in each month since it was first piloted in January 2002 are shown as follows.

Between January 2004 and March 2005 there are no these data available. At that time the reporting of these data relied on providers submitting paper forms to the Legal Services Commission and in some cases no forms were ever sent. Since April 2007 these data have been submitted electronically and consequently the figures are more reliable.

	Number
2002	
January	8
February	10
March	7
April	12
May	18
June	10
July	12
August	6
September	9
October	12
November	4
December	12
2003	
January	9
February	6
March	5
April	17
May	5
June	9
July	11
August	12
September	10
October	7
November	1
December	4
2004	
January	—
February	—
March	—
April	—
May	—
June	—
July	—
August	—
September	—
October	—
November	—
December	—
2005	
January	—
February	—
March	—
April	4
May	1
June	6
July	6
August	11
September	6
October	0
November	0
December	21
2006	
January	14
February	4
March	0
April	5
May	12
June	5
July	23
August	7
September	13
October	14
November	5
December	4
2007	
January	16
February	9
March	9
April	14
May	9
June	8

	Number
July	14
August	9
September	9
October	14
November	8
December	8
2008	
January	14
February	12
March	15
April	17
May	6
June	9
July	16
August	13
September	17
October	18
November	11
December	4
2009	
January	11
February	6

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1507W, on legal aid: housing (1) how many applications for acts of assistance relating to housing have been received in 2008-09; and how many such applications have been accepted; [261945]

(2) how much the Legal Services Commission spent on acts of assistance relating to housing in each of the last five years; and how much has been spent in 2008-09 to date on applications for acts of assistance; [261946]

(3) how many new housing matters have been started by the Legal Services Commission in 2008-09; [261947]

(4) what proportion of all applications for *(a)* civil representations and *(b)* legal help in 2008-09 to date have been related to housing. [261948]

Mr. Malik: The information requested is currently being collated. I will write to the hon. Member as soon as the information becomes available.

Legal Aid: Negligence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many legally-aided clinical negligence cases were closed in the last year for which figures are available; and how many resulted in *(a)* an award of damages and *(b)* a settlement involving an agreement to pay (i) damages and (ii) compensation. [262744]

Mr. Malik: The information requested is currently being collated. I will write to the hon. Member once the information becomes available.

Reoffenders: Essex

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders re-offended while on probation in *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency and *(b)* Essex in the last five years. [261770]

Mr. Hanson: The measure of reoffending used to provide National Statistics for England and Wales is not broken down by area. However, newly published data on local adult reoffending (a different measure of reoffending to the national statistics) are broken down by probation area and local authority (upper tier only).

The number of offenders used to calculate the local reoffending rate for the Essex probation area between 1 October 2007 and 30 September 2008 is 20,810 and the reoffending rate is 8.19 per cent.

The number of offenders used to calculate the local reoffending rate for the Essex county council area, which excludes the unitary authorities of Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock, is 15,737 and the reoffending rate is 8.20 per cent.

The local measure measures the reoffending of all offenders on the probation caseload, aged 18 or over, at a certain point in time (a "snapshot"), while the national measure covers all offenders commencing a court order under probation supervision or released from custody during the first quarter of the year. Additionally, the local measure allows a three month period for reoffences to be committed, while the national measure allows a year.

The local reoffending figures are produced by aggregating the data of four snapshots of the probation caseload. Therefore the number of offenders quoted above is approximately four times the number of offenders on the caseload at any one time.

A reoffending rate of 8.19 per cent. with a caseload size of 20,810 does not mean that 1,704 different offenders committed a reoffence, as some offenders may have appeared in more than one cohort and reoffended more than once.

It should be noted the probation supervision of some offenders may end during the period while their reoffending is being monitored. Therefore some reoffences may be committed after probation supervision has finished.

For further details please see "Local reoffending results 1 October 2007 to 30 September 2008 England and Wales" available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/local-adult-reoffending-oct07-sept08.pdf

This is the first time that reoffending data at the local level have been made available.

The Ministry of Justice does not currently collate reoffending data at the constituency level.

Wetherby Young Offender Institution

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether boys held on red level in Wetherby Young Offenders Institution are permitted to telephone their solicitors during office hours; [261682]

(2) how much outdoor exercise boys in Wetherby Young Offenders Institution are able to take; [261683]

(3) how often boys held on red level in Wetherby Young Offenders Institution have association with other young people; and how long on average they spend alone in their cells each day; [261684]

(4) how often boys held on red level in Wetherby Young Offenders Institution are permitted to telephone their families; [261685]

(5) what the arrangements for providing boys in Wetherby Young Offenders Institution with decent clothing are; [261686]

(6) how often boys held on red level in Wetherby Young Offenders Institution are allowed to have a shower; [261687]

(7) how many boys in each age cohort have been placed on red level in Wetherby Young Offenders Institution in each month since January 2008; and for how long each was on red level. [261688]

Mr. Hanson: Those on red level status have the same access to telephones during office hours as other young people at Wetherby. However like all other young people they are normally engaged in educational or vocational training activities during the core day. If a young person needs to contact his solicitor a member of staff will facilitate it as soon as possible.

During the week, young people walk to their activity areas each day in the fresh air. At weekends, all young people have access to at least one hour's outdoor exercise per day. During the summer months, young people also have access to outdoor exercise in the evenings. In addition there are a large number of outdoor activities as well as horticultural and recycling vocational training. Some physical education activities also take place outdoors.

Young people on red level participate in the whole range of purposeful activities and curriculum. However they do not take part in association with other young people during the evenings or at weekends. Typically, they might expect to be out of their room for approximately 6.75 hours each day during weekdays, although this will vary for each young person.

Young people on red level are permitted to telephone their families at least every other day. However, more frequent contact can be arranged in cases where young people would benefit from it.

Freshly laundered clothing is issued to young people on a weekly basis. They receive five T-shirts, seven pairs of underpants, socks, a gym vest and shorts, two jumpers and two pairs of trousers. Each unit also keeps a stock of clean clothing in case a young person requires an emergency replacement.

48 rooms at Wetherby have a fitted shower providing unlimited access. The vast majority of other young people, including those on red level, have an opportunity to shower daily when they attend physical education activities or during the evening association periods.

The information on numbers of young people placed on red level and the length of time spent on red level is not held in the format requested and would involve the examination of a very large numbers of individual files which would involve disproportionate cost.

Wymott Prison: Manpower

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prison staff were employed at HM Prison Wymott *(a)* before and *(b)* after the opening of the new residential unit. [262398]

Mr. Hanson: The residential unit at HM Prison Wymott was opened on 19 September 2008. At 31 August 2008 567 staff were employed in Wymott and at 30 September 2008 573 staff were employed in this establishment. As at 28 February 2009, there were 562 staff employed in this establishment

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Anniversaries

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what criteria are used by his Department in its decision to mark the anniversary of an occasion; and which anniversaries his Department plans to mark in each of the next three years. [262573]

Barbara Follett: No one Department within Whitehall deals with anniversary events as such. Decisions on commemorating significant occasions or events are taken by Ministers and then the most appropriate Department will take forward the arrangements.

DCMS is responsible within Government for co-ordinating the annual Remembrance Day ceremony at the Cenotaph.

Anniversaries for which celebrations are planned by DCMS sponsored bodies include the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin, organised by English Heritage, and the 500th anniversary of Henry VIII's accession to the throne, organised by Historic Royal Palaces. Both these anniversaries occur in 2009 and plans by the Department, or its sponsored bodies, for the celebration of other major anniversaries will be announced nearer the time.

British Library

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps have been taken to minimise the possibility of a fire sprinkler malfunction at *(a)* the British Library and *(b)* other places where items from the national collection are stored. [261692]

Barbara Follett: Extensive fire and flood prevention and protection measures are built into *(a)* British Library premises and *(b)* other places where items from the national collection are stored. The British Library and other places where items from the national collection are stored are aware of the risk to collections from a fire sprinkler malfunction and have accounted for this at design stage and in on-going procedures. In addition, the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council has a National Security Adviser who can advise and carry out fire and security risk assessments.

Broadcasting: EU Action

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the cost to business in the UK of implementation of the EU Audiovisual Media Services Directive; and what the regulatory costs of its predecessor were. [261617]

Andy Burnham: The estimated additional cost of the EU Audiovisual Media Services Directive is £505,000 per annum plus £250,000 in one-off transition costs.

We set out these costs in the preliminary impact assessments published with our consultation on 31 July 2008. They will fall to be met by the video-on-demand industry, and by non-EU satellite channels uplinked from the UK. They do not take into account the savings to the industry of replacing the current self-regulatory arrangements for video-on-demand services.

Updated impact assessments will be published with the implementing regulations later this year. I have made no estimate of the regulatory costs of the Television Without Frontiers Directive, which preceded the AVMS Directive and was last revised in 1997.

Departmental Detergents

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make it his policy to ensure that no cleaning products or ingredients of cleaning products used by his Department have been tested on animals. [261131]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department does not use any cleaning products or ingredients that have been tested on animals.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been claimed in reimbursable expenses by special advisers in his Department in 2008-09 to date. [260351]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Costs incurred will be available only when the Department's resource accounts are fully audited and laid before Parliament. This is expected to be before the 2009 summer recess.

Departmental NDPBs

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what risk rating was applied to each of his Department's non-departmental public bodies as part of their recent risk reviews; and what additional discretion has been afforded to those bodies deemed to be low risk. [261622]

Andy Burnham: The risk ratings are an internal tool that we use to guide our day-to-day relationship with each sponsored body. The ratings can change whenever there is a significant change in a body's activities or in its external environment, therefore we do not publish them.

We will shortly use the risk ratings to delegate greater freedom, where appropriate, for sponsored bodies to undertake capital projects without having to seek approval from Government. We will continue to look for ways of streamlining the framework of checks and controls that applies to low-risk bodies.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many and what percentage of letters sent by his Department were given to *(a)* the Royal Mail and *(b)* another postal services provider for delivery in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [259963]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department sent 42,170 items of mail in the last 12 months. 100 per cent. were given to the Royal Mail.

Departmental Public Appointments

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what information his Department holds on the number of persons appointed to executive positions in bodies for which his Department has responsibility in the last five years who previously had careers in the banking industry. [261231]

Andy Burnham: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Consultants

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what payments for *(a)* polling and *(b)* other services his Department has made to (i) Deborah Mattinson and (ii) Opinion Leader Research Limited since 31 December 2007; and if he will make a statement. [261090]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has no records of payments to either Deborah Mattinson or Opinion Leader Research Limited.

Departmental Training

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department has provided voice coaching to any of its employees in the last 12 months. [260639]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Within the last 12 months the Department for Culture, Media and Sport has not provided voice coaching courses for any of its employees.

Hotels: Greater London

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of visitor accommodation facilities in London are accredited under the National Quality Accreditation Scheme. [262489]

Barbara Follett: The London Development Agency have advised that, as at February 2009, 57 per cent. of visitor accommodation facilities (rooms) in London are accredited under the national quality accreditation scheme. This includes hostels, campus sites, serviced and self-catering apartments, bed and breakfast establishments/guesthouses, caravan parks, hotels, single rooms and accommodation found through agencies. The figure for hotels alone is 76 per cent. of rooms.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much of the London Development Agency's funding for increased accreditation of London accommodation under the National Quality Accreditation Scheme has been spent. [262490]

Barbara Follett: The London Development Agency have advised that as at January 2009 they had spent £443,397 promoting quality improvement in London for businesses that provide accommodation.

ITV Wales: Hearing Impaired

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effects of the decision taken by ITV Wales to discontinue the provision of British Sign Language interpretation of their flagship news programme on the company's ability to meet its public service obligations. [261757]

Andy Burnham: The Communications Act 2003 sets minimum targets for signing of programmes by broadcasters. However, it is the responsibility of Ofcom to ensure that these requirements are met. The Government understand that the signing of parts of some regional news programmes provided by ITV has always been in addition to the minimum targets set out in the Communications Act 2003.

Government welcome the fact that last year all ITV channels exceeded their minimum access services targets set out by Ofcom and that ITV intend to continue to subtitle all of their news programmes and bulletins.

Legal Deposit: Digital Technology

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he received the independent report on extension of legal deposit to digital and online media; and if he will publish it. [261618]

Barbara Follett: Recommendations on legal deposit for digital and online media are being received from the Legal Deposit Advisory Panel on an ongoing basis and are considered as they are received. Policy formulated in response to recommendations will be published for public consultation at the appropriate time. The decision whether to publish the recommendations themselves will be taken as part of that process.

National Library of Scotland

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether any items from the national collection were damaged as a result of the recent failure of the sprinkler system at the National Library of Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [261691]

Barbara Follett: The National Library of Scotland is a devolved function and this is a matter for the Scottish Executive.

Public Libraries

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make an assessment of the likely effect on public library authority budgets for 2009-10 of the time taken to publish the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA's) survey of library usage; whether his Department has held discussions with CIPFA on the matter; what account he takes of *(a)* the survey and *(b)* other statistics when assessing the value of public library services; and if he will make a statement. [259958]

Barbara Follett: It is unlikely that the time taken to publish the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA's) survey of library usage will have an effect on public library authority budgets for 2009-10.

Due to the various validity checks from both CIPFA and the Audit Commission, and taking in queries from local authorities, the earliest date that figures can be shared with all subscribers is November. Data are published nationally between January and March. CIPFA believes this timetable ensures a 100 per cent. response rate and accurate data. We do not believe this timetable affects an authority's ability to plan budgets for the following financial year.

DCMS is represented on the CIPFA Library Standards and Statistics Working Party, but has not otherwise discussed the survey with CIPFA.

Being the primary source of data on public libraries, we look forward to the publication of the annual CIPFA statistics. However, we believe that local authorities should have the freedom to manage their library budgets in accordance with the needs and wishes of their communities and that close monitoring of their performance is unnecessary.

The Library Service Modernisation Review, which was launched by the Secretary of State in October, will define Government's high level vision for the provision of modernised library services, and the necessary steps to achieve this vision, and is intended to encourage excellence in all authorities. We believe that participation increases when services are excellent and we hope that results of our own Taking Part and Active People surveys will demonstrate year on year increases in library participation.

Royal Parks Agency: Parking

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate his Department has made of the annual revenues which would be generated from the Royal Parks Agency's proposed car park charging regime in *(a)* Richmond Park and *(b)* Bushy Park; and if he will make a statement. [261953]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 9 March 2009]:* The Royal Parks (TRP) advise that a consultation is underway about the possibility of introducing parking charges in Bushy and Richmond parks and the level of the fee. No decision has been taken about whether the proposal will be adopted or the level of charge and nor will it be until the consultation is complete.

Sex Establishments

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will take steps to exclude lap dancing from the provisions of temporary event notices. [262392]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Lap dancing itself is not a licensable activity under the Licensing Act 2003, which controls activities such as "the performance of dance" but has no role in censoring the content of any such performance. The Government currently have no plans to change the regime for permitted temporary activities contained in the Licensing Act 2003 or to give it a new role involving

censorship. I am aware that concerns regarding the use of temporary events notices for lapdancing events were raised during the House of Commons committee stage of the Policing and Crime Bill. In response, the Minister with responsibility for crime reduction, the Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, my hon. Friend the Member for Tynemouth, (Mr. Campbell) stated that he would discuss the issue with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. These discussions are ongoing.

Television: Licences

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much money was collected from television licence fees in the UK in each of the last five years. [261646]

Andy Burnham: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for South-West Surrey (Mr. Hunt) on 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1203W.

Tourism

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the prospects for the tourism sector in 2009. [262697]

Barbara Follett: The British Tourism Framework Review, carried out by Deloitte on behalf of VisitBritain, includes assessment of the prospects for the tourism sector in 2009. The report can be located at the following web address:

http://www.visitbritain.com/en/campaigns/tourism-review/reports.aspx

At the National Tourism summit in January 2009 both the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State and I spoke about opportunities within the tourism sector. These include: the increased affordability of our high quality tourism product for visitors from the USA and Eurozone countries; the forthcoming decade of world class sports events which provide opportunities to showcase our towns, cities and regions; and our dynamic culture, incomparable countryside, and heritage.

Tourism: South West

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to support the tourist industry in the South West. [258980]

Barbara Follett: Between 2008 and 2011, the Department will have provided £3.5 million annually to the regional development agencies for the support of the tourism industry.

In the same period, the DCMS will have provided over £130 million to VisitBritain and VisitEngland to market Britain to overseas visitors, and England to domestic visitors respectively.

DCMS has also made £45 million (£15 million per annum over three years) available through the Sea Change programme, which aims to help the regeneration of seaside resorts in England through cultural and heritage projects. In the first year of the programme (2008-09), £4,160,655 was allocated to the south west as set out in the following table:

Seaside town/resort	*Grant allocated (£)*
Torbay	2,247,532
Boscombe	455,000
Teignmouth	376,676
Weston-Super-Mare	951,447
Westward Ho!	[1]100,000
Ilfracombe	[2]30,000

[1] Development grant
[2] Feasibility grant

HOME DEPARTMENT

Anti-Semitism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what account her Department takes of published anti-Semitic views of individuals seeking to enter the United Kingdom in deciding whether to grant entry; and if she will make a statement. [261522]

Mr. Woolas: Where there is clear, reliable evidence that a non British citizen has engaged in one or more of a list of unacceptable behaviours, and has not clearly and publicly repudiated their previous extremist views or actions, there will be a presumption towards exclusion from the UK. The list includes behaviour likely to incite racial or religious hatred. Each case will be considered carefully to determine whether the evidence provided demonstrates that the person's actions or activities constitute unacceptable behaviour and therefore justify exclusion from the UK.

Asylum: Zimbabwe

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Zimbabwean asylum seekers have been refused asylum in the UK in each year since 2005. [255894]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 12 February 2009]:* There were 945 Zimbabwean principal asylum seekers refused asylum at initial decision in 2005, 1,510 in 2006, 1,115 in 2007 and 1,660 between January and September 2008. All figures are rounded to the nearest five and 2007 and 2008 figures are provisional.

Information on asylum is published annually and quarterly. Annual figures are available in Table 3.3 of Asylum Statistics United Kingdom 2007 published on 21 August 2008. Quarterly figures are available in the supplementary web tables published with the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistics Summary. Q4 2008 was available from 24 February 2009 from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Begging and Vagrancy

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of alternatives to use of the criminal justice system in reducing the incidence of begging and vagrancy. [259555]

Mr. Alan Campbell: There have been no recent assessments of alternatives to the criminal justice system in reducing the incidence of begging or vagrancy. It is for local areas to determine what works best for them in tackling the problem where it exists.

Binyam Mohamed

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the threat of persecution to Mr Binyam Mohamed in his country of origin. [259014]

Mr. Woolas: We do not normally comment on individual cases and cannot confirm or deny whether an individual is seeking asylum in the United Kingdom. Mr. Mohamed has only recently returned to the United Kingdom and his current status is accordingly being considered.

Contracts: Costs

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* first estimate, *(b)* last estimate and *(c)* outturn cost was of each of the 30 largest IT contracts her Department has entered into with external suppliers since 1997. [250831]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 27 January 2009]:* Details of the largest information technology contracts agreed by the Department since 1997 are as follows:

IT contract	*First estimate*	*Last estimate*	*£ million Outturn cost*
Criminal Records Bureau PPP agreement: Capita	400	400	[1]334
Independent Safeguarding Authority—Vetting and Barring Scheme: Logica	47	50	[1]28.5
HO and UKBA—IT2000 provision of desktop, remote access, applications	700	700	[1,2]566
UKBA—IND Procurement of Infrastructure, Development and Support (IPIDS): ATOS Origin	250	250	130
UKBA—Mycroft—SERCO	42	42	[1]43.5
UKBA—IAFs (Immigration Automated Fingerprinting System): Sagem	31	31	[1]28.7
UKBA. Warnings Index—Fujitsu	32.8	32.8	8.8
UKBA. E-borders—Trusted Borders Consortium	863	880	[1]105
UKBA—Semaphore: IBM	30	50	45.7
Group Wide Services (GWS): Iavvis 1st tranche Applications	7	7	[1]3.7
IPS—PASS	116	116	[1,3]338
IPS Pass subsequent phases	244	244	[3]—
IPS—Admin IT: ATOS Origin	55	55	[1]49
IPS—Search/Analysis system—Biographical Footprint check: Equifax plc	8	[3]13.4	[1,3]13.4
Secure Hosting of above—Equifax plc	4	[3]—	[3]—
IPS—PIMIS: IBM	9	9	9
IPS—PKI: nCipher Corporation	7	8.5	[1]5
IPS—Fraud MI: Logica CMG	0.8	1.5	1.5
IPS—Website: Redweb Ltd.	0.5	0.5	[2]2.0
Website—Subsequent phases and support—Redweb Ltd.	1.5	1.5	[3]—
IPS—ICT Goods and Services: Computacenter	[4]—	16	16

[1] To date.
[2] January 2009.
[3] Indicates breach
[4] OGC cross government framework

Crime: Internet

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the number of victims of on-line crime in the last 12 months. [263194]

Mr. Alan Campbell: These data are not kept centrally. Crimes are prosecuted on the basis of the offence committed and not the medium used.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of letters sent by her Department were given to *(a)* the Royal Mail and *(b)* another postal services provider for delivery in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [259972]

Mr. Woolas: This information is not held centrally for the whole Department. However an estimated 275,000 letters were sent by Royal Mail from the Department's HQ at 2 Marsham street in the last 12 months. Apart from couriers and the Government's internal dispatch service no other postal provider has been used. 2 Marsham street also houses Ministry of Justice staff whose letters are included in this estimate.

Domestic Violence

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many recorded cases of domestic violence there were in each police force area in which *(a)* no action was taken, *(b)* a warning was issued, *(c)* a possible offender was arrested and *(d)* a possible offender was charged in each of the last five years. [260926]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested is not available centrally.

Firearms

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal hand guns are estimated to be in circulation in the UK. [255379]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* We do not hold this information centrally.

Firearms: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals were found to be carrying illegal *(a)* weapons and *(b)* drugs during stop and search procedures by the police in West Chelmsford constituency in each of the last 10 years. [261768]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Information on stops and searches under PACE and the number of resultant arrests for weapons and drugs reported to the Home Office are broken down by police force area only, and cannot separately identify searches in individual constituency areas.

Forensic Science: Females

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many female forensic nurses have been trained in each of the last five years. [260930]

Jacqui Smith: The data requested are given in the table.

	Number of female forensic nurses trained
2005	1
2006	14
2007	4
2008	4
2009	[1] —
Total	23

[1] None to date.

Genetics: Databases

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times information has been accessed from the Police National Computer as evidence of bad character under section 101 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003. [260070]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not held centrally.

Illegal Immigrants

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants have been detected stowing away in lorries at each of her Department's check-points within the UK in each month since January 2005. [250585]

Jacqui Smith: In 2008 alone, over 28,000 attempts to cross the channel and enter the UK illegally were prevented at the juxtaposed ports of Calais, Coquelles and Dunkirk.

The following tables represent the number of clandestines detected in lorries at the juxtaposed locations in northern France from 2005 to 2008 as well as ports within the UK.

Location—juxtaposed controls

	2005		2006		2007		2008	
	UIE	FP	UIE	FP	UIE	FP	UIE	FP
January	189	872	364	1,227	406	819	785	1,894
February	191	662	427	727	303	643	683	1,394
March	235	705	332	875	297	588	571	947
April	266	887	367	993	320	631	549	1,054
May	249	834	403	946	448	724	490	978
June	207	863	372	820	327	734	506	1,231
July	350	877	377	780	455	717	625	1,306
August	388	894	560	1,092	448	1,075	650	1,900
September	270	927	424	1,317	497	1,286	946	2,055
October	396	842	664	1,588	701	1,771	1,077	2,567
November	449	1,269	528	842	651	1,996	941	2,313
December	423	694	386	587	686	1,517	721	1,824
Total	3,613	10,326	5,204	11,694	5,459	12,421	8,544	19,463

Key:
UIE = Represents figures for UKBA detections at juxtaposed ports including contracted partners.
FP = Represents figures for detections at juxtaposed ports by the French port authorities.

Location—Dover, Ramsgate and Dartford Europort

	2005	2006	2007	2008
January	60	68	51	68
February	26	43	20	69
March	35	18	27	43
April	17	66	36	26
May	46	41	26	46
June	34	42	28	16
July	41	40	37	31
August	50	40	51	55
September	45	36	56	45
October	55	62	84	57
November	47	53	42	89
December	64	32	83	70
Total	520	561	541	615

Location—Hull, Immingham, Humber Sea Terminal, Grimsby, Tyne Commission Quay and Teesport

	2005	2006	2007	2008
January	—	—	3	8
February	—	—	10	4
March	—	5	9	—
April	—	14	—	4
May	—	8	—	7
June	—	6	23	12
July	—	4	8	12
August	—	1		8
September	—	1	9	9
October	—	1	2	6
November	—	17	—	—
December	—	—	—	4
Total	81	57	64	74

Location—Purfleet and Tilbury

	2005	2006	2007	2008
January	—	—	—	38
February	—	—	4	13
March	—	—	7	10
April	—	—	9	9
May	—	—	12	7
June	—	—	3	13
July	—	1	10	24
August	—	—	2	16
September	—	9	7	22
October	—	16	—	7
November	—	2	16	14
December	—	2	—	11
Total	—	30	70	184

Location—Newhaven, Portsmouth, Plymouth and Poole

	2005	2006	2007	2008
January	—	13	29	24
February	—	42	18	10
March	—	9	12	5
April	—	8	7	10
May	—	15	27	9
June	—	14	44	14
July	—	10	21	17
August	—	44	24	8
September	—	19	31	19
October	—	17	20	14
November	—	20	44	20
December	—	20	18	4
Total	163	233	295	154

All the data provided above have been compiled from locally held management information and as such do not represent National Statistics. They may therefore be subject to change.

National Police Improvement Agency: Consultants

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent on consultants by the National Policing Improvement Agency in the last year for which figures are available, broken down by *(a)* project and *(b)* contractor. [254822]

Jacqui Smith: The total National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) consultancy spend for the 2007-08 financial year was £71.4 million. This spend is made up of £66.5 million which was recorded in the Income and Expenditure accounts, along with £4.9 million of capitalised spend, which was included in the fixed asset additions for the year.

The main consultancy services purchased by the NPIA are:

specialised technical resources needed in the design and build of technology projects, for use by the police service,

project and programme management skills,

specific expert advice and guidance, where the NPIA does not retain the required skills or knowledge.

We do not hold this information in the format requested, but are able to provide the following without incurring disproportionate cost.

Table 1 shows consultancy spend on key projects within the NPIA during 2007-08.

Table 2 shows the cost of the 20 largest suppliers of consultancy resource to the NPIA during this period.

Table 1: NPIA consultancy spend on NPIA key projects during 2007-08

	£ million
Custody and Case	19.4
IMPACT	12.5
Livescan	9.2
Airwave	4.5
Schengen Information System II	3.4
PentiP	1.7

Table 2: Top 20 suppliers of consultancy resource to NPIA during 2007-08

	£ million
Metropolitan police authority[1]	10.4
Northrop Grumman Commercial Sys	8.7
Capgemini UK Plc	7.0
SunGard Public Sector Ltd.	5.5
PA Consulting Group	2.4
Rullion Computer Personnel Ltd.	2.0
Cable and Wireless Communications	1.6
Accenture	1.3
Imperial College London	1.2
LA International Consultants	1.2
Generic Software Consultants Ltd.	1.2
Northgate SIS Ltd. (Anite)	1.1
Northgate Information Solutions UK	0.8
Hudson Global Resources	0.8
Parity Solutions Ltd.	0.7
Amtec Consulting plc	0.6

Table 2: Top 20 suppliers of consultancy resource to NPIA during 2007-08

	£ million
Spring Technology Staffing Services	0.6
Arqiva	0.5
Parity Resources	0.5
QinetiQ	0.5

[1] The Metropolitan Police Authority is shown as a supplier as it is recharging some of its own costs incurred for work on NPIA projects

Offensive Weapons: Convictions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2056W, on the Tackling Knives Action Programme, how many convictions for possession of a knife were recorded in each of the 10 Tackling Knives Action Programme areas between June and November in each of the last five years. [258717]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Figures for individual TKAP areas are not provided, on the advice of statisticians, because the numbers are small for some areas and this means that changes over time for an area can be volatile.

Offences involving the possession of a knife or offensive weapon resulting in a sentence in TKAP areas as recorded on the police national computer, June to November, 2004-08

	Number of offences
2004	5,016
2005	4,883
2006	4,859
2007	4,701
2008	5,516

The figures for the most recent period are likely to be revised as more information is recorded by the police.

Police: Databases

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals with records on the Police National Computer have been *(a)* arrested and *(b)* cautioned more than once. [262528]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 10 March 2009]:* The latest available statistics for the information sought were produced on 21 January 2009.

The number of persons with at least one arrest/summons entry on the Police National Computer was 7,258,061.

The number of persons with at least one caution was 1,819,509, of which 1,465,975 had one caution. Therefore the number of persons with more than one caution was 353,534.

Prostitution

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when her Department plans to publish the responses received to the consultation letter of 26 September 2008 on proposals for prostitution legislation; [242662]

(2) when the Violent Crime Unit plans to publish responses to its consultation letter on proposals for prostitution legislation dated 26 September 2008. [244913]

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to publish the responses to her Department's letter dated 26 September 2008 asking for views on her proposals arising out of the Tackling Demand for Prostitution review. [250710]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government wrote to a range of interested organisations on 26 September to seek their views on the proposed legislation. We received 67 responses from a variety of organisations representing the voluntary sector, statutory partners, local authorities and representatives of persons involved in prostitution and the lap-dancing industry. This was not a formal consultation and we did not indicate to potential respondents that their responses would be published. We therefore do not feel it appropriate to do so, although individual organisations are, of course, free to publicise their own views.

The issues involved here have also been subject to detailed scrutiny and discussion during the passage of the Policing and Crime Bill.

Public Order Offences

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to Table 2.04, Home Office Statistical Bulletin 07/08 Crime in England and Wales, if she will break down by offence the figure of 35,058 offences of 'Other offences against the State and public order' recorded in 2007-08. [262386]

Jacqui Smith: It is not possible to provide the breakdown requested. Police forces in England and Wales notify the Home Office of an aggregated figure for 'Other offences against the State and public order' but individual offences within that offence classification cannot be separately identified centrally.

Serious Organised Crime Agency: Consultants

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the Serious Organised Crime Agency spent on external consultants in the financial years *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2007-08 and *(c)* 2008-09. [256950]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information is as follows:

	£ million
(a) 2006-07	1.60
(b) 2007-08	1.62
(c) 2008-09 (to 31 January 2009)	1.36

Theft

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences of *(a)* shoplifting, *(b)* robbery of business property and *(c)* theft by an employee were recorded by police in the quarter (i) July to September 2003, (ii) July to September 2004 and (iii) July to September 2005. [262527]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 10 March 2009]:* The information requested is given in the table.

Selected offences recorded by the police in England and Wales

Offence	July to September 2003	2004	2005
Shoplifting	74,831	68,530	72,953
Robbery of business property	2,268	1,691	1,859
Theft by an employee	4,307	4,412	4,188

Vetting

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of enhanced Criminal Records Bureau checks took longer than *(a)* 10, *(b)* 20, *(c)* 30, *(d)* 40, *(e)* 50, *(f)* 60, *(g)* 70, *(h)* 80, *(i)* 90, *(j)* 100, *(k)* 150, *(l)* 200 and *(m)* 300 working days to complete in each year since 2003; [260293]

Mr. Malik: The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) does not hold the information in the format requested.

The CRB operates to a set of published service standards (PSS) which include to issue 90 per cent. of standard disclosures within 10 days and 90 per cent. of enhanced disclosures within 28 days.

The figures showing how many and what percentage of enhanced disclosures were completed in 28 days or fewer and in more than 28 days in each financial year since 2004 are shown in the following table:

	Enhanced disclosures issued in 28 days or fewer		Enhanced disclosures issued in more than 28 days		
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Total
2004-05	1,938,010	89.9	217,730	10.1	2,155,740
2005-06	2,073,621	84.4	383,276	15.6	2,456,897
2006-07	2,494,629	84.6	454,105	15.4	2,948,743
2007-08	2,828,768	93.4	199,892	6.6	3,028,660
2008-09	2,528,724	88.2	338,310	11.8	2,867,034

Information from before 2004 was not recorded in this format and therefore is unavailable.

Victim Support Schemes: Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what funding has been provided to local authorities for provision of *(a)* rape crisis centres and *(b)* domestic violence support services in 2008-09. [262446]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Responsibility for decisions on local funding of rape crisis and domestic violence services has moved from central Government to regional areas and local partnerships. Decisions on funding for local services are based on local areas identifying a need and including this in their priorities for improvement with outcomes specifying how the issues will be addressed and how they contribute to wider national aims.

Work Permits

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1834-5W, on work permits, if she will give a breakdown of the occupations in the category, "Others." [257520]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 23 February 2009]*: The following table provides a breakdown of occupations in the category "Others" and the associated number of individual approved work permit applications for the period 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2008 with the appropriate caveats.

Work permit applications approved between 1 January 2006 and 31 December 2008 by selected category of occupation

Occupation	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*Total*
Polo Groom	900	1,025	1,590	3,515
Other Legal Occupation	1,095	1,140	1,035	3,270
Head Chef	970	955	1,130	3,060
Lecturer (University)	990	1,110	890	2,990
Second Chef	975	945	950	2,875
Computer Programmer	980	800	950	2,730
Other Construction/Land Occupation	815	810	820	2,445
Musician	780	805	845	2,430
Architect	855	845	730	2,430
Fashion (Model)	710	750	835	2,300
Pharmacist	660	670	760	2,090
Researchers-Sponsored	735	715	470	1,920
Restaurant Manager	670	575	665	1,915
Social Worker	785	550	560	1,895
Groom	335	495	575	1,405
Other Entertainment Related Occupation	410	420	483	1,315
Singer	390	435	450	1,275
Surveyor	435	475	340	1,245
Mushroom Processor - SBS	1,155	10	*	1,165
Electrical/Electronic Engineer	365	345	385	1,095
Radiographer	345	445	295	1,080
Senior House Officer	640	345	65	1,050
Specialist Registrar	595	250	195	1,040
Lawyer	435	365	220	1,020
Waiter/Waitress	470	385	165	1,020
Civil/Structural Engineer	290	395	325	1,010
Jockey (Work Rider)	245	315	405	970
Other Transport Related Occupation	370	315	280	965
General Manager	320	325	265	910
Aircraft Engineer	200	270	395	870
Meat Process Operative-SBS	850	5	—	855
Solicitor	275	265	310	850
Auditing	305	280	265	850
Cricket Player/Coach	195	245	340	775
Other Agricultural Occupation	345	205	175	730
Physiotherapist	305	245	170	720
Foundation Programme Dr	355	215	145	715
Cricket Player	270	250	180	700
Fashion (Other Related Occupation)	280	220	180	685
Mechanical Engineer	220	210	230	660
Disc Jockey	210	205	225	640
Computer Engineer	290	160	175	620
Skilled Craftsmen	235	145	190	570
It Manager	185	185	185	560
Actor (Film)	185	175	180	540
Trader	150	200	180	530
Dental Surgeon	215	155	145	520
Architectural Technician	155	185	175	515
Technician (Film)	140	185	160	485
Geologist	140	155	190	485
Meat Cutter - SBS	460	15	*	480

Work permit applications approved between 1 January 2006 and 31 December 2008 by selected category of occupation

Occupation	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*Total*
Occupational Therapist	180	155	140	475
Network Specialist	160	150	115	430
Polo Player	120	115	180	415
Other Sports Related Occupation	125	165	100	390
Veterinary Surgeon	140	135	115	390
Hotel Manager	175	115	85	375
Database Specialist	90	155	105	350
Biomedical Scientist	135	100	95	330
Actor (Theatre)	110	115	100	325
Kabaddi Player	110	110	95	315
Personnel/Training Manager	100	125	90	310
Dancer (Other)	105	115	90	305
Comedian	70	90	105	260
Investment Analyst	65	90	100	255
Ice Hockey Player	60	85	105	250
Producer (TV)	75	75	95	250
Circus Artiste	95	70	75	245
Lacrosse Development Officer	60	75	100	235
Meat Packer - SBS	235	—	—	235
Teacher Foreign Circ	80	85	70	235
Midwife	70	90	70	235
Basketball Player	80	80	70	230
Rugby Union Player	75	70	75	220
Actuary	90	75	55	220
Director (Film)	75	75	65	215
Football Player	70	65	70	210
Hospital Consultant	80	50	60	190
Process Operatives - SBS	190	—	—	190
Dancer (Ballet)	60	55	65	180
Psychiatrist	110	40	25	175
Producer (Film)	75	45	50	175
Chemical Engineer	55	65	55	170
Conductor	60	50	65	170
Optician	80	45	40	170
Ship Related Occupation	60	55	55	165
Rugby League Player	60	45	50	155
Personal Assistant	60	50	45	155
Dental Nurse	60	45	50	155
Electronic Engineer	40	35	80	155
Choreographer	50	50	50	150
Fish Filleter - SBS	150	—	—	150
Transport & Highways Engineer	50	55	40	145
Meat Bone Extractor - SBS	145	—	—	145
Medical Practitioner	55	35	55	145
Manager (Entertainment Related)	45	40	60	140
Animator	45	55	40	140
Sheep Shearer	30	55	50	140
Writer	35	40	55	135
Editor (Film)	40	45	35	115
Purchasing Manager	40	40	30	115
Catering Manager	50	30	30	110
Receptionist	65	25	20	110
Advertising/Public Relations Manager	45	35	30	110
Legal Executive	35	20	55	110
Railway Engineer	50	40	20	105
GP Registrar	65	25	10	100
Coach (Other)	25	35	30	90
Director (Theatre)	40	15	35	90
Editor (TV)	35	35	20	90

Work permit applications approved between 1 January 2006 and 31 December 2008 by selected category of occupation

Occupation	2006	2007	2008	Total
Speech Therapist	35	35	20	90
Audiologist	30	20	35	85
Actor (TV)	20	35	25	80
Cricket Coach	25	25	25	80
Technician (Theatre)	40	20	20	80
Farm Worker	40	15	20	75
Attorney	30	25	20	75
Presenter	30	20	25	75
Boxer	30	25	20	70
Dietician	30	20	25	70
Investment Manager	30	15	20	70
Fish Packer - SBS	65	—	—	65
Insurance Broker	20	25	20	65
Motor Sports Driver	15	20	25	65
Technician (Music)	15	10	40	65
Bank Manager	20	20	25	65
Camera Person (TV/Film)	25	30	10	65
Psychologist	30	20	15	65
Chiropractor	25	25	10	60
Jockey	20	25	15	60
Kitchen Assistant - SBS	45	15	—	60
Acupuncturist	20	20	20	60
Polo Trainer	35	20	5	60
Photographer	20	20	15	55
Trimmer - SBS	55	—	—	55
Water Engineer	15	25	20	55
Treasurer/Financial Mgr	15	25	15	55
Meat Bone Breaker - SBS	55	—	—	55
Assistant Dentist	30	20	5	50
Speedway	15	15	15	50
Interpreter/Translator	20	15	10	50
Airline Pilot	10	20	15	45
Director TV	10	25	10	45
Ice Skater	10	20	15	45
Road Crew	10	15	20	45
It Architect (Senior)	15	20	10	40
Materials Engineer	15	15	10	40
Animal Gut Remover - SBS	30	—	—	30
Rail Engineer (Structural/ Bridge)	10	15	5	30
Snooker Player	10	10	10	30
Dancer (Contemporary)	10	5	10	30
Food Service Op - SBS	30	—	—	30
Technician (TV)	5	15	10	30
Electronic and Opto-Elect	5	10	10	25
Producer (Music)	10	10	10	25
Composer	5	10	10	25
Captain	10	15	•	25
Cold Store Operative - SBS	25	—	—	25
Farm Manager	10	5	10	25
TV Consultant	5	5	10	25
Hockey Player	10	10	5	20
Stock Broker	5	10	5	20
Commentator	•	10	10	20
Director Music	5	5	5	20
Gymnasts Coach	10	5	5	20
Chick Sexer	5	15	•	20
Rail Engineer (Transport/ Highway)	15	•	5	20
Martial Arts Coach	10	5	5	15
Racquet Sport Coach	10	5	•	15
Cleaner Of Premises - SBS	15	•	—	15
Waiting Staff - SBS	15	•	—	15
Circus Rigger	5	•	5	15
Editor (Music)	5	5	5	15
Rugby Union Coach	5	5	5	15
Water Sports Related Occupation	5	5	5	15
Helicopter Pilot	10	5	5	15
Meat Slaughterer - SBS	15	—	—	15
Chef (NVQ2 & Below) - SBS	15	—	—	15
Fitness Consultant	5	5	5	10
Production Accountant	5	•	5	10
Wrestler	5	5	5	10
Other Occupation-SBS (Gen)	10	—	—	10
Lairageman - SBS	10	—	—	10
Basketball Coach	5	5	•	10
Magician	5	5	5	10
Commodity Broker	•	5	5	10
Other Occupation-SBS (Fish)	10	—	—	10
Mc (Master Of Ceremonies)	—	5	•	10
Boxing Coach	5	5	•	5
Dental Anaesthetist	5	•	—	5
Not Stated	•	5	5	5
Chiropodist/Podiatrist	•	•	•	5
Bar Staff - SBS	5	•	—	5
Football Manager/Coach	•	•	—	5
Room Attendant - SBS	5	—	—	5
Rugby League Coach	—	•	•	5
Advocate	•	•	—	5
Hockey Coach	•	•	—	5
Martial Arts Performer	5	—	—	5
Racquet Sport Player	•	•	•	5
Assistant Optometrist	—	•	•	•
Gymnast	•	—	—	•
Ice Hockey Coach	—	•	•	•
Kirtan Performer	•	—	—	•
American Football Tech	—	—	•	•
Barrister	—	•	—	•
Other Occupation - SBS (Meat)	•	—	—	•
Reception Staff - SBS	•	—	—	•
Total	30,935	25,975	25,320	82,235

Notes:
Figures are rounded to nearest 5.
Because of rounding, figures may not add up to totals shown.
The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change. The occupational categories used are not compatible with those in the Standard Occupational Classification
Caveats:
The figures do not equate to the number of individual nationals who were granted permits because they include those applications approved to extend or amend an existing permit or where the individual has moved to another job with a different employer. Not all those who were granted a permit took up the job and some may have been refused entry clearance or further leave to remain.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Security

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many *(a)* police officers of each rank and *(b)* civilian security staff (i) are and (ii) were employed on average in each year since 2001 in (A) the Palace of Westminster and (B) the Parliamentary estate. [261476]

Nick Harvey: We do not disclose the exact disposition of our security operation. The security work force is regularly reviewed by the Serjeant at Arms and Black Rod in consultation with the Joint Committee on Security.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Burma: Asylum

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what programmes his Department *(a)* has established and *(b)* funds to assist Rohingya refugees from Myanmar. [262740]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not established any programmes or provided funding specifically to assist Rohingya refugees. We do, however, provide assistance to the refugees indirectly through our contributions to the European Commission and to United Nations organisations which have programmes to support Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh.

We are also helping to meet the humanitarian needs of Rohingya people living in Burma's northern Rakhine State through our contributions to multi-donor programmes which operate across the country. These include a UNICEF fund for primary education and the Three Diseases Fund which was set up to fight HIV/AIDS, malaria and TB in Burma.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1003-4W, on departmental manpower, whether the Department publicises staff numbers for country offices not assessed by the National Audit Office report of October 2008 as insecure; and if he will make a statement. [261435]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) no longer publicises staff numbers for country offices, irrespective of whether they were assessed by the National Audit Office in October 2008.

Overseas Aid: Finance

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the recession on his Department's budgets for *(a)* bilateral and *(b)* multilateral assistance. [262741]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Plans for the Department for International Development's (DFID) bilateral and multilateral assistance over the three years 2008-09 to 2010-11 were published in May 2008 in DFID's 2008 annual report. Any revisions to those allocation plans in the light of the changed economic situation will be published in DFID's 2009 annual report.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Agriculture: Planning Permission

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning applications have been granted on farmland in England classified as *(a)* grade 1 (excellent), *(b)* grade 2 (very good), *(c)* grade 3a (good), *(d)* grade 3b (moderate), *(e)* grade 4 (poor) and *(f)* grade 5 (very poor) in each of the last 10 years. [262115]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is not held centrally. Communities and Local Government collects quarterly summary statistics on development control from all local planning authorities in England. However, we do not collect information on individual planning applications.

Christmas

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether it is her Department's policy to offer staff *(a)* additional leave entitlement for Christmas shopping and *(b)* Christmas bonus payments. [262808]

Mr. Khan: The Department does not have any policies regarding additional leave entitlement for Christmas shopping or Christmas bonus payments.

Community Relations

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 582-83W, on community relations, (1) what steps her Department has taken in response to the observations on page 6 of the report on the learning and development exercise issued by the Audit Commission and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary; [262007]

(2) how many local authorities have selected National Indicator 35 as part of their local area agreements; and when local authorities are due to report on progress against that indicator in respect of work done under the Prevent strand of Project Contest in 2008. [262012]

Mr. Khan: In responding to the observations in the "Preventing Violent Extremism: Learning and Development Exercise" report relating to assessing success, my Department has responded by commissioning research from the Tavistock Institute and De Montfort University to investigate the national and international contributing factors to violent extremism. On 10 December 2008 the Secretary of State announced that we would be working to establish a national 'centre of excellence' that local areas can access for practical advice on Prevent; and we have published guidance produced jointly between Communities and Local Government, the Home Office and the Office for Public Management to assist local authorities and the police in reporting outcomes linked to National Indicator 35 (NI 35). Currently 19 local authorities have selected NI 35 as a priority indicator as part of their local area agreements. Progress against NI 35 for 2008-09 will be reported from April 2009.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer of 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 583-84W, on community relations, how many area-based grants have been made by her Department; which other departments have made area-based grants; and how much her Department has spent on area-based grants in each year since 2006. [262009]

Mr. Khan: Area Based Grant was introduced in April 2008 and is a single grant paid to local authorities. Details of all area based grant allocations made for 2008-09 and 2009-10 are available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localgovernmentfinance/areabasedgrant/

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to her Department's report Preventing violent extremism: next steps for communities, how much of the £80 million for community-led work to tackle violent extremism will be allocated to *(a)* national projects, *(b)* the Community Leadership Fund and *(c)* local authorities in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11. [262477]

Mr. Khan: Our overall budget for this Comprehensive Spending Review period (2008-11) is £84.5 million (£20.5 million/£27.5 million/£36.5 million). Over the CSR period, £45 million of this funding will be paid through the area based grant to local authorities, and £5.1 million will be allocated through the community leadership fund.

The Department has budgeted to spend £8.5 million on Prevent related projects in the financial year 2008-09. The budget allocation split for the following two years 2009-11 has not yet been finalised, but we expect to support national projects in a number of areas including: theological understanding; building community resilience; engaging and empowering young Muslims and Muslim women; local partnerships and delivery; faith institutions; campaigns; and research and evaluation.

Community Relations: Finance

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how the 79 priority local authorities provided with £12 million under the Prevent strand of Project Contest in 2008-09 were selected; how much each one received in 2008-09; and what mechanisms are in place to assess whether measures implemented by these local authorities are effective; [262122]

(2) how the priority local authorities selected to receive funding from the £33 million left to be distributed to priority local authorities under the Prevent strand of Project Contest for April 2008 to March 2011 were selected by her Department; how much each will receive; and what mechanisms are in place to assess whether measures implemented by these local authorities are effective. [262123]

Mr. Khan: Local authorities will be assessed from April 2008 using National Indicator 35 (NI35), and through the comprehensive area assessment which will begin in April 2009. Details of all area based grant allocations made from April 2008 to March 2011 are available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localgovernmentfinance/areabasedgrant/

The local authorities provided with Prevent funding over the period 2008-11 have been selected based on the size of their Muslim population. This is to enable them to work with those most vulnerable to violent extremism and to build the resilience in those communities where it is most needed.

Community Relations: Islam

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the Answer of 5 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1425-6W, on community relations: Islam, whether the Young Muslim Advisory Group has been established for a fixed time period; and for how long she expects her Department to monitor the group's progress. [262820]

Mr. Khan: The Young Muslim Advisory Group (YMAG) has been established for a period of two years, ending in September 2010. The YMAG's progress will be monitored throughout this time by both the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

Council Housing: Construction

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether local authorities which have transferred their housing stock to a housing association are permitted to build new council housing. [262514]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local authorities which have transferred all their housing stock could build council housing if they consider that they have the necessary skills to develop, have resources available, and can do this efficiently and provide value for money.

Council Housing: Rents

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* methodology and *(b)* formula is used to calculate changes in (i) council house rent and (ii) housing subsidy to each local authority area. [262162]

Mr. Iain Wright: The methodology and formula used to calculate changes in council house rents, and housing subsidy for each local authority, are set out in the annual Housing Revenue Account (HRA) subsidy determination which is available on the Department's website at

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/hrasubsidydeterminations0910

I have arranged for a copy of the 2009-10 determination to be placed in the Library of the House.

Council Housing: Tenants' Rights

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect on a local authority tenants'

risk of eviction of the practice of including utility bills in rent for the purposes of claiming rent arrears; and if she will make a statement. [262547]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department has not made an assessment of whether the inclusion of utilities within rent payments may increase the risk of eviction. Tenancy agreements should make clear what services are included within the rent.

CLG have issued guidance which makes clear we expect social landlords to maintain and sustain tenancies wherever possible, focusing on preventative approaches rather than eviction. The basic principles underpinning effective arrears management are well established but in these difficult economic times they become even more important.

Council Tax

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to implement a council tax freeze in England. [262610]

Mr. Khan: No.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she has issued to local authorities on the procedure to be followed in setting *(a)* a budget and *(b)* a council tax rate in circumstances where the council is unable to agree on a budget. [262683]

John Healey: The Local Government Finance Act 1992 sets out provisions under which billing authorities are legally required to set their *(a)* budget requirement and *(b)* council tax rate for the financial year. Communities and Local Government does not provide guidance in situations where a council is unable to agree a budget.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Ilford North (Mr. Scott) of 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 106W, on departmental buildings, under what budgetary heading the expenditure referred to in the table was incurred in the most recent year for which audited figures are available; and in respect of which locations such expenditure was incurred. [262676]

Mr. Khan: The figures quoted in the table are in the consolidated 2007-08 Departmental Resource Accounts, published on 21 July 2008, and are included under the budgetary headings; Other Administration Costs, Other Expenditure, Accommodation shown in Note 9 (page 53) and Programme Costs, Other Expenditure, Accommodation shown in Note 10 (page 54). The expenditure was incurred in Central London, Bristol, Hemel Hempstead and Uttoxeter.

Departmental Data Protection

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what IT security strategy her Department has in place; what steps are being taken to ensure the strategy is being followed; what policy is in place on the use of encryption when data are sent externally; and what sanctions are in place for use should the policy not be followed. [259004]

Mr. Khan: Information is a key asset to Government and its correct handling is vital to the delivery of public services and to the integrity of HMG. The Security Policy Framework, the Data Handling Report and the National Information Assurance Strategy produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic framework for protecting information that Government handles and put in place a set of mandatory measures which Departments must adhere to.

The Department for Communities and Local Government is compliant with the security policies contained in the Government Security Policy Framework including those for information security and assurance.

Depending upon the circumstances, a range of sanctions are available including disciplinary or administrative action, and in extreme or persistent cases, termination of employment/services and, if appropriate, criminal proceedings.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department uses WPA2 encryption protocol on all its wireless networks. [259705]

Mr. Khan: Communities and Local Government follows CESG guidance on the use of the Wi-Fi Protected Access 2 (WPA2) communications security protocols in order to protect wireless networks carrying protectively marked (up to RESTRICTED/IL3) traffic. The configuration and operation standards for WPA2 are set out in CESG's Infosec Manual Y, Use of WPA2 Wireless Security in Government Systems.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what auditing her Department undertakes to ensure that IT security policies are being followed; and on how many occasions *(a)* IT security policies have been breached by employees and *(b)* a member of staff has been sanctioned for a breach of such policies in the last 12 months. [259706]

Mr. Khan: Compliance arrangements are in place comprising a system of self assessment, accreditation, assurance reporting, audit and review. Additionally, any security incidents are notified to the IT security manager and departmental IT security officer; and a monthly report is compiled by the service provider, Steria Ltd. These reports show that IT security policies have been broken by CLG employees on three occasions in the past 12 months. In each case the breach was of a minor nature and staff were advised accordingly. Regular daytime security checks are also carried out, to identify unattended PCs that may not have been locked; where these are found guidance has been issued to staff.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if she will place in the Library a copy of her Department's IT security hierarchy; [259707]

(2) what scanning for vulnerabilities her Department conducts of each of its IT devices; what method is used for IT device scans; and how many vulnerabilities have been detected as a result of such scans in the last 12 months. [259708]

Mr. Khan: It is not in the interest of the security of the Department, or that of the public, to disclose detailed information pertaining to electronic breaches of security of Department's IT systems. Disclosing such information would enable criminals and those who would attempt to cause disruptive threats to the Department to deduce how to conduct attacks and therefore potentially enhance their capability to carry out such attacks.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2063W, on departmental data protection, what dataset the Department has backed up in the United States. [262217]

Mr. Khan: The Public Inquiry Service Database is hosted in the USA and stores approximately 4,000 records.

Departmental Public Appointments

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information her Department holds on the number of persons appointed to executive positions in bodies for which her Department has responsibility in the last five years who previously had careers in the banking industry. [261230]

Mr. Khan: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department spent on staff surveys in each of the last five years; and which company was contracted to conduct each such survey. [259680]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to the hon. Member for Upper Bann (David Simpson) on 26 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 631W, to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 29 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 681W and to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May) on 8 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1500W. In addition, Ipsos MORI have been paid £16,520 plus VAT to date for the CLG Pulse Survey 2008. ORC International is currently undertaking a second pilot employee engagement survey as part of a wider survey being led by the Cabinet Office. No payments have been made to date. Cost information for the 2005 and 2006 ODPM surveys, which were also undertaken by ORC International, is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Empty Property

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* private and *(b)* public sector domestic dwellings were empty in the most recent period for which figures are available. [262508]

Mr. Iain Wright: Estimates of the number of private and public sector domestic empty dwellings, as at April 2008, are shown in the following table. The term public sector has been interpreted to mean "social rented" dwellings i.e. local authority and registered social landlord owned dwellings.

	Number of vacant dwelling
Total vacant dwellings	762,640
Local authority	36,940
Registered social landlords	29,240
Private sector	696,450

Sources:
Council taxbase and council taxbase supplementary (CTB1 and CTB1S) returns from local authorities for 17 September 2007; housing strategy statistical appendix (HSSA) submitted to Communities and Local Government by local authorities for 1 April 2008; Regulatory statistical return (RSR) as reported to the Housing Corporation by registered social landlords for 31 March 2008.

Total vacant dwellings reported by local authorities through council taxbase returns include long term and short term empty dwellings and second homes. Figures for registered social landlords are for self-contained general needs units only. Estimates for private sector vacant dwellings have been made by deducting local authority and RSL vacant dwellings from the total. This estimate will include a small number of other public sector vacant dwellings.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what figures her Department collects on the number of vacant *(a)* private and *(b)* public sector homes in each local authority area. [262598]

Mr. Iain Wright: Vacant stock at district level is collected from a variety of sources:

The number of local authority owned vacant dwellings and the number of 'other public sector' (other than local authority and RSL) vacant dwellings is obtained from the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) and the HRA Business Planning Statistical Appendix (BPSA) submitted to CLG by local authorities.

The number of registered social landlords (RSLs) owned vacant dwellings is obtained from the Regulatory and Statistical Return (RSR) submitted to the Tenants Services Authority by RSLs.

An estimate of the number of private sector vacant dwellings is obtained by subtracting the number of local authority owned, RSL owned and 'other public sector' vacant dwellings from the total number of vacant dwellings obtained from council tax records submitted to CLG by local authorities on CTB1 and CTBS1 returns.

Figures on council tax vacants can be found at

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/stats/ctbase.htm,

and data on stock and vacants for local authorities and RSLs can be found at

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/stockincludingvacants/livetables/.

At regional level, additional information on the age, type and condition of vacant stock is available from the "English House Condition Survey" (EHCS).

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information the National Register of Social Housing holds on the property characteristics of empty public sector dwellings. [262660]

Mr. Iain Wright: The National Register of Social Housing collects the same data on vacant dwellings as it does on occupied dwellings. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 335W.

Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which organisations have received funding under the Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund to date; and what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* monetary value of the grant was in each case. [262161]

Mr. Khan: The Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund was distributed over the three years 2004-05 to 2007-08, in two rounds of funding. I have placed in the Library a list showing each organisation that received funding, the amount awarded and the purpose.

The fund had two categories: capacity building and inter faith activity. The purpose of the capacity building category was to help build the organisational capabilities of faith-based organisations, enabling them to play a fuller part in civil society by engaging more effectively with public authorities. Capacity building for the large grants was subdivided into three categories: leadership and management; relationships with local, regional or national Government; and mentoring smaller faith organisations. The purpose of the inter faith category was to improve cohesion between different faith groups and the wider community, thereby bringing people of different faiths together to promote mutual understanding, respect and co-operation.

Fire Services: Contracts

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Ruislip-Northwood (Mr. Hurd) of 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 108W, on fire services: contracts, in what Government Office regions contracts have been signed for the regional fire control rooms; and in which Government Office regions and for what services contracts have not been signed. [262600]

Mr. Khan: All major contracts with third party suppliers have now been signed.

In eight out of the nine Government office regions, regional control centre buildings have been built and leases have been signed. Three of these leases (in the north east, East Midlands and north west regions) have been assigned to the local authority controlled companies which will operate them. It is intended to assign the remaining leases, currently held by my Department, to the relevant local authority controlled company in due course.

In London, where the building is on track to be completed by February 2010, it is intended that the lease will be held by the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority.

The Facilities Management contract has been signed for all the buildings.

There is a single IT contract for FiReControl between my Department and EADS Defence and Security which covers all Government office regions.

Fire Services: Working Hours

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the provisions of the EU Working Time Directive rules would apply to retained fire-fighters in the event of a fire service strike. [262240]

Mr. Khan: Yes. Those provisions include the right of individuals to opt out of the average weekly 48-hour limit on their working time.

Homebuy Scheme

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) which organisations participating in the Government's Homebuy programme offer 100 per cent. mortgages to purchasers; and if she will make a statement; [262532]

(2) in which Homebuy schemes are potential homeowners permitted to seek a 100 per cent. mortgage. [262540]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government wish to offer every household the opportunity of sustainable home ownership. The Homebuy programme, which offers assistance on a shared ownership or shared equity basis, requires prospective purchasers to secure a mortgage from a conventional lender, registered with the Financial Services Authority, for their share of the purchase, which is less than 100 per cent. of the property value. It is for individual lenders to decide the level of mortgage they provide on this share.

Homelessness: Greater London

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Leeds North-West (Greg Mullholland) of 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 545-56W, on homelessness, if she will provide figures equivalent to those in the table for each London borough; and if she will make a statement. [261665]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected quarterly at local authority level. Data collected include the number of applicants accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). These households are known as 'accepted' households.

In addition, some applicants may be found to be in priority need, but are not accepted as owed a main homelessness duty because they were found to be intentionally homeless. For these cases we do not hold the reason for priority need centrally.

Figures reported by each London local authority, for the last six month, 12 month and two year periods, are provided in a table which has been placed in the Library. These show the number of applicants who were: (a) assessed as being homeless and in priority need; of which those (b) accepted as owed a main homelessness duty; and of which those that were (c) vulnerable though (i) having served in HM forces, (ii) having been on remand or in custody, and (iii) being a former asylum seeker (since April 2000, asylum seekers have been ineligible for assistance under the homelessness legislation, with certain exceptions where an asylum claim had been made prior to 3 April 2000).

However, it is important to note that some applicants who had previously been in the HM forces, on remand or in custody, or are a former asylum seeker, may have been accepted with alternative primary priority needs (for example through having dependent children or being a pregnant woman) and so will not be shown as being priority need for these reasons.

Housing North West

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to Lord Greaves of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, House of Lords, column 17WA, on Housing North West, in which other Government Office regions in England regional partnerships have been established. [261830]

Mr. Iain Wright: None of the Government Office regions have regional housing partnerships similar to the North West, although there are regional partnerships in London and the West Midlands.

In London the Mayor has established the Mayor's Housing Forum (MHF). The primary role of the MHF is to act as an advisory body to the Mayor in the development of the Mayor's Housing Strategy and its implementation. It also aims to share information and develop ideas about key housing issues in London and to receive and consider key documentation on research, strategies and policy initiatives; and the relevant strategies of member organisations.

The MHF is chaired by the Mayor's Office and the Greater London authority provides the secretariat. The MHF meets quarterly.

In the West Midlands there are a series of three interrelated voluntary partnerships, who work together to deliver on the housing agenda.

Strategic Advisory Panel, which provides a wide forum for planning, environment and housing policy issues to be debated.

Regional housing executive oversees the development and delivery of the regional housing strategy, and recommends investment in line with the regional housing strategy.

West Midlands Regional Housing Advisory Forum; this is an officer-led partnership group, which supports the activities of the regional housing executive.

The partnerships are all voluntary and receive no funding.

Housing: Construction

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the proposed targets are for the number of new dwellings to be built in the most recent draft of each regional spatial strategy; and over what period those targets apply in each case. [262239]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following information provides by region the proposed targets for the number of new dwellings to be built annually in the most recent RSSs; and the plan period they cover.

North East

7,425 new dwellings per year until 2021

North West

23,111 new dwellings per year until 2021

Yorkshire and Humber

22,260 new dwellings per year until 2026

West Midlands

18,280 new dwellings per year until 2026

East Midlands

20,418 new dwellings per year until 2026

East of England

26,830 new dwellings per year until 2021

South West

20,200 new dwelling per year until 2016

South East

28,904 new dwellings per year until 2026

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what requirements there are on local authorities to complete strategic housing land availability assessments; and what the timetable for their completion is in each Government Office region. [262665]

Mr. Iain Wright: Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing (PPS3) says that Local Development Documents and Regional Spatial Strategies should be informed by a robust, shared evidence base including a Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA). The table has been deposited in the Library showing the latest information we have on when local authorities completed or expect to complete their SHLAA. This information was provided by local authorities in April 2008 to inform payments of the Housing and Planning Delivery Grant. The South East, South West and North West regions updated their information in February 2009. We will be updating all our information on the completion of SHLAAs within the next few months to inform the next round of the Housing and Planning Delivery Grant.

Affordable Housing

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding her Department has allocated for affordable housing in West Lancashire constituency in the next three years. [261971]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Homes and Communities Agency has made allocations in the 2008-11 affordable housing programme of £3.016 million in West Lancashire. In addition £0.618 million has been allocated for Homebuy Direct.

Land: Databases

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which public bodies will have access to *(a)* Ordnance Survey, *(b)* Landmark and *(c)* Dotted Eyes geographic data under the Pan-Government Agreement. [262090]

Mr. Khan: All members of the Pan-Government Agreement for geographic data will have access to products provided by both Ordnance Survey and the Landmark-Dotted Eyes consortium from 1 April 2009.

The 96 members will be:

4NW
Advantage West Midlands
Amgueddfa Cymru—National Museum Wales
Arts Council of Wales
Audit Commission
Boundary Commission for Wales
British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)
British Geological Survey (BGS)
Potato Council Ltd.
British Waterways
Cabinet Office
Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH)
Charity Commission
Church Commissioners
Coal Authority (The)
Commission for Rural Communities
Communities and Local Government
Consumer Council for Water
Consumer Focus
Countryside Council for Wales (CCW)
Crown Estate (The)
Defence Estates (DE)
Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (DBERR)
Department for Children, Schools and Families
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)
Department for Transport (DfT)
Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)
Department of Health (DH)
East Midlands Development Agency (EMDA)
East Midlands Regional Assembly
East of England Development Agency
East of England Regional Assembly
Electoral Commission (The)
English Heritage
Homes and Communities Agency
Environment Agency (EA)
Food Standards Agency (The)
Forensic Intelligence Bureau
Forestry Commission
Government Offices Regional Coordination Unit (RCU)
Health and Safety Executive (HSE)
Health Protection Agency
Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC)
Higher Education Funding Council for Wales
Highways Agency
Home Office
House of Commons Library
Information Centre for Health and Social Care
Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)
Land Registry
Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales
London Thames Gateway Development Corporation
Maritime and Coastguard Agency
Met Office
Ministry of Defence
Ministry of Justice
National Assembly for Wales Parliamentary Service
National Audit Office
National Housing and Planning Advice Unit
National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA)
Natural England
NHS Connecting for Health
NHS Counter Fraud and Security Management Service
North East Regional Assembly
North West Regional Development Agency
Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA)
Office for National Statistics (ONS)
Office of Communications (Ofcom)
Office of Government Commerce (OGC)
Oil and Pipelines Agency
Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA)
One North East
Planning Portal
Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW)
Royal Parks (The)
Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA)
South East England Development Agency (SEEDA)
South East England Regional Assembly
South West Observatory
South West Regional Assembly
South West Regional Development Agency (SWRDA)
Sport England
Sports Council for Wales
Tenant Services Authority
The National Library of Wales
Training and Development Agency for Schools
Tribunals Service
UK Border Agency
Valuation Office Agency (VOA)
Wales Audit Office
Wales Centre for Health (WCfH)
Welsh Assembly Government
Welsh Health Estates
West Midlands Regional Assembly
Yorkshire and Humber Assembly
Yorkshire Forward

Legal Opinion

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) of 29 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 641W, on legal opinion, on what topics external legal advice was commissioned in 2007-08. [262588]

Mr. Khan: External legal advice has been commissioned on the following topics;

Fire Control Project
Housing Mobility Project
General Minor Legal Expenses
Geographic Data Licensing Project
Firelink Project
Commission for Equality and Human Rights Setup Project
Fire Research Project
It Services Outsourcing Project
Planning Portal Project
Housing Information Pack Register Project
Land Registry Fees
Gypsy and Traveller Sites Grant Project
Green Flag Project

A detailed breakdown of this list could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Licensed Premises: Planning Permission

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the recent Planning Inspectorate ruling in relation to Brighton and Hove Council and patio heaters outside licensed premises. [262664]

Mr. Iain Wright: A copy of the Inspector's decision has been placed in the Library. It is also publicly available through the Planning Portal website:

www.planningportal.gov.uk

decision reference 2081980.

Local Government

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the presentation and handouts provided for the Strategy Unit seminar of 26 January 2009 by the chairman of the Tenant Services Authority on the subject "Where next for local government?" [262102]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Strategy Unit seminar "Where next for local government?" is being rescheduled and new dates are yet to be confirmed. As the event is yet to be scheduled, the TSA have not prepared any materials for circulation. Further information about the Strategy Unit and their programme of seminars can be found on the Strategy Unit website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/strategy.aspx

Local Government Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to publish the consultation document on local spending reports under the Sustainable Communities Act 2007. [262093]

John Healey: The consultation document on local spending reports was published on 20 February 2009. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has issued on the interest rate to be used when local authorities repay overpaid *(a)* fees, *(b)* charges and *(c)* taxes. [262517]

John Healey: The basis for repayments of amounts overpaid in relation to fees and charges and to council tax is not set out in guidance issued by the Department.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities have met the Government's target to pay invoices within 10 days. [262659]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the right hon. Member for East Yorkshire (Mr. Knight) on 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 242W.

Local Government: Bank Services

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will seek information from local authorities on advice they received from Butlers in relation to the depositing of funds in Icelandic banks. [261631]

John Healey: Decisions on investment policy are a matter for individual authorities who must have regard to investment guidance issued by my Department.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the Answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood (Mr. Pickles) and Ongar of 17 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1577W, on local government: bank services, what information *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Audit Commission received from (i) the Financial Services Authority, (ii) the Bank of England and (iii) HM Treasury on the level of risk associated with investment in Icelandic banks before October 2008. [261989]

John Healey: On part *(a)*, my Department did not receive, nor would we expect to have received, information from any source on the Icelandic banks. As the Department's investment guidance, published in 2004, makes very clear investment decisions are a matter for the local authorities concerned,

On part *(b)* the Audit Commission has confirmed that it did not receive, nor would expect to receive, information from the sources named in the question regarding investments in Icelandic banks.

Local Government: Pay

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether local authorities are required to report the pay scales of senior council officers in their Statement of Accounts. [262534]

John Healey: Local authorities are currently required to report the number of staff earning over £50,000 per annum in their annual accounts.

Local Government: Pensions

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of all governance compliance statements and general governance statements requested from Local Government Pension Scheme administration authorities and held by the Workforce Pay and Pensions Division of her Department. [261755]

John Healey: The Department does not at present hold copies of all of the governance statements. Once we have received all of the statements we will be publishing a report on our website. Copies can be obtained from each administering authority who are in any event required to publish them.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the name and address is of each administrator of each individual fund within the Local Government Pension Scheme; and which local authorities are members of each individual fund. [262375]

John Healey: The pension manager of each fund is designated as the relevant administrator of each of the eighty-nine Local Government Pension Scheme funds in England and Wales. Contact details can be found at:

www.lge.gov.uk/lge/core.

Schedule 4, parts 1 and 2, of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations 2008 set out the requirements on which individual fund, employers contribute to their respective pension funds. Details of these employers are not held centrally.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) which councillors are members of the Local Government Pension Scheme in their capacities as councillors; [262379]

(2) whether councillor members of joint waste authorities are eligible to join the Local Government Pension Scheme in their capacity as members of such authorities; and what powers such authorities have to admit them to membership. [262606]

John Healey: Only elected members of a district council, county council or London borough council are defined as eligible members for the purpose of access to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Decisions on access for councillors to the scheme are made by each local authority in the light of recommendations from its independent remuneration panel. There is no requirement to provide details to the Department of who has taken up any subsequent right of access.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy on amendments to the Local Government Pension Scheme rules to allow greater discretion to local authority investment managers; and if she will make a statement. [262684]

John Healey: A copy of CIPFA's report "Local Government Pension Scheme Investment Regulations: Options for Change" was submitted to the Department on 27 January. The report will be treated as a response to the current statutory consultation exercise on the consolidation of the scheme's investment regulations, which is due to close on 3 April 2009.

We will consider its recommendations carefully.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received from the Local Government Association on the retirement age for the Local Government Pension Scheme; and if she will make a statement. [262685]

John Healey: The Local Government Association recently expressed its support to see an increase in the scheme's retirement age from 65, as part of a response made by the Local Government Employers to a statutory consultation exercise on proposals to introduce cost-share arrangements in the Local Government Pension Scheme later this year.

Mortgages

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Oldham West and Royton (Mr. Meacher), of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2219W, on mortgages, how many and what proportion of mortgages were in each list house price to income ratio bracket in each year for which data are available. [262616]

Mr. Iain Wright: This information is not collected by Communities and Local Government. However for the UK we have made the following estimates based on data from the Regulated Mortgage Survey and the Council of Mortgage Lenders.

Number of mortgages for house purchase by price to income ratio, UK

	House price to income ratio				
	Less than or equal to 6	*Greater than 6 but no more than 8*	*Greater than 8 but no more than 10*	*Greater than 10*	*Total*
1997	1,050,746	31,656	11,230	9,963	1,103,595
1998	1,030,377	35,115	11,600	11,179	1,088,271
1999	1,179,639	44,620	15,464	14,175	1,253,898
2000	1,043,624	47,181	16,815	15,341	1,122,960
2001	1,207,137	64,580	21,093	20,901	1,313,711
2002	1,249,509	89,449	30,076	27,761	1,396,795
2003	1,025,385	130,147	50,201	46,184	1,251,917
2004	935,632	174,841	71,398	62,931	1,244,801
2005	798,731	124,523	49,157	42,310	1,014,722
2006	924,932	120,789	42,352	37,937	1,126,010
2007	819,298	117,305	42,241	37,555	1,016,400
2008	410,779	62,897	22,513	20,111	516,300

Proportion of mortgages for house purchase by price to income ratio, UK

	House price to income ratio				
	Less than or equal to 6	*Greater than 6 but no more than 8*	*Greater than 8 but no more than 10*	*Greater than 10*	*Total*
1997	95.2	2.9	1.0	0.9	100
1998	94.7	3.2	1.1	1.0	100
1999	94.1	3.6	1.2	1.1	100

Proportion of mortgages for house purchase by price to income ratio, UK

	House price to income ratio				
	Less than or equal to 6	*Greater than 6 but no more than 8*	*Greater than 8 but no more than 10*	*Greater than 10*	*Total*
2000	92.9	4.2	1.5	1.4	100
2001	91.9	4.9	1.6	1.6	100
2002	89.5	6.4	2.2	2.0	100
2003	81.9	10.4	4.0	3.7	100
2004	75.2	14.0	5.7	5.1	100
2005	78.7	12.3	4.8	4.2	100
2006	82.1	10.7	3.8	3.4	100
2007	80.6	11.5	4.2	3.7	100
2008	79.6	12.2	4.4	3.9	100

Source:
Regulated Mortgage Survey and Council of Mortgage Lenders

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of the Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme in each of the next two years. [261506]

Margaret Beckett: We are currently working with lenders to agree the Master Guarantee for the Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme, which we expect to be open for business with the first lenders in April. We will publish a full impact assessment when the Master Guarantee Deed has been finalised.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made on the implementation of the Homeowner Mortgage Support Scheme; and if she will make a statement. [261599]

Margaret Beckett: We are making good progress on the implementation of the Homeowner Mortgage Support scheme and expect the scheme to be open for business with the first lenders in April now that the Banking Act, which is the legislative vehicle we have used to enable us to do this, has gained Royal Assent (12 February). We are now working with a wider group of lenders to finalise the scheme implementation plans and agree the draft Master Guarantee.

Multiple Occupation: Fire Prevention

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment she has made of the adequacy of enforcement of fire regulations in former guest houses and hotels in seaside towns which are now used as houses of multiple occupation. [263004]

Mr. Khan: The Department has worked closely with LACORS (Local Authority Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services), the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health and the Chief Fire Officers Association who published guidance on fire safety provisions for certain types of existing housing, including houses in multiple occupation. This can be found on the LACORS website: www.lacors.gov.uk

The Department has commissioned an initial evaluation of the effectiveness of fire safety legislation, the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. This includes the perspective of the responsible persons, the enforcing authorities and the fire industry. We will publish the outcome of this evaluation shortly and will put a copy in the House of Commons Library.

National Community Forum

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of each meeting of the National Community Forum's board in the last 12 months. [262101]

Mr. Khan: In the past 12 months the National Community Forum has held three meetings. The meetings were held in April 2008 (quarterly meeting), October 2008(annual residential meeting) and January 2009 (sub-groups meeting). I have placed copies of the minutes in the Library.

Non-Domestic Rates: Business

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 20 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1277W, on non-domestic rates: business, whether the business rate multiplier will be reduced in April 2010 if retail price index inflation in September 2009 is negative. [262035]

John Healey: If the retail price index inflation in September 2009 is negative it will have a reducing impact on the multiplier for 2010-11.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what additional levy there is on top of the standard business rates bill in each business improvement district which has been established. [262037]

John Healey: The Department does not collect this information, as businesses within the BID area decide on the amount of the levy and vote in a ballot on whether the scheme should go ahead. The size and calculation of the BID levy varies widely between BIDs. The levy is collected by the billing authority and held in a separate BIDs Revenue Account where it is ring-fenced and can only be used for the BID.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much she estimates will be raised from business rates in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10. [262608]

John Healey: For England, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) on 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1081W.

Business rates in Wales are the responsibility of the Welsh Assembly Government.

Non-Domestic Rates: Empty Property

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the Answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 132W, on small business: tax allowances, whether empty property below the appropriate rateable value threshold is automatically billed at the small business rate multiplier rate. [261835]

John Healey: No, small business rate relief applies to occupied properties only.

Non-Domestic Rates: Greater London

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 14 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1278W, on non-domestic rates: Greater London, when such sub-location codes were first used in a rates revaluation. [262156]

John Healey: 1995.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of the effect of changes to business rates in ports on *(a)* yacht clubs and *(b)* fishing companies located within the curtilages of ports. [261994]

John Healey: There has not been a specific assessment of the impact of the review of business rates in ports on yacht clubs or fishing companies.

Non-Domestic Rates: Valuation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what each of the classifications is of the codes used by the Valuation Office Agency to group properties for sub-locations. [262036]

John Healey: There is no classification of the codes used by the VOA to group properties for sub-locations. The sub-location codes are simply unique labels for a particular category of property having similar characteristics.

Owner Occupation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many householders were owner occupiers owning their home *(a)* outright and *(b)* with a mortgage in each of the last 30 years. [262604]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is not readily available for the United Kingdom.

Estimates of the number of owner occupying households in England who were *(a)* outright owners and *(b)* buying with a mortgage are set out in the following table. Estimates are available for 1981, 1984, 1988 and all years from 1991 onwards.

Households in owner occupation: England 1981–2008

Thousands of households

		Owner occupiers	
	Own outright	*Buying with a mortgage*	*All owner occupiers*
1981	4,313	5,546	9,860
1984	4,590	6,399	10,990
1988	4,834	7,414	12,248
1991	4,795	8,255	13,050
1992	4,815	8,255	13,069
1993	4,898	8,382	13,280
1994	5,008	8,421	13,429
1995	4,998	8,468	13,467
1996	5,115	8,407	13,521
1997	5,249	8,380	13,629
1998	5,404	8,413	13,817
1999	5,582	8,508	14,091
2000	5,764	8,575	14,339
2001	5,885	8,473	14,358
2002	6,019	8,540	14,559
2003	6,158	8,542	14,701
2004	6,288	8,389	14,677
2005	6,352	8,440	14,791
2006	6,425	8,365	14,790
2007	6,505	8,228	14,733
2008	6,653	7,975	14,628

Sources:
1981 to 1991: DOE Labour Force Survey Housing Trailer
1992 to 2008: ONS Labour Force Survey.

Planning Permission

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department has provided to local authorities on *(a)* predetermination and *(b)* predisposition in respect of planning decisions. [262372]

Mr. Iain Wright: Every local authority is required to adopt a code of conduct that sets out rules governing the behaviour of its members. The Standards Board for England, sponsored by Communities and Local Government, is responsible for promoting and improving the ethical behaviour of local authorities and their members. It publishes a range of guidance documents to help local authorities and their members interpret the code of conduct, including the revised "Code of Conduct—A Guide for Members", published in May 2007. In August 2007, the Board published an Occasional Paper, "Predisposition, Pre-determination and the Code", to help clarify the issues of predetermination and bias.

In October 2008, Communities and Local Government issued "Guidance on Planning and Propriety Issues", which deals with the propriety issues that can arise in connection with the Secretary of State exercising decision-making functions under the Town and Country Planning Acts.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes have been made to the period before expiry of planning permissions since 1997; and what representations her Department has received on extending this period in the last six months. [262382]

Mr. Iain Wright: Since 2005, under a provision in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, the default period for the implementation of a planning permission has been three years. The Act also amended primary legislation so that a planning permission could no longer be extended by an application to vary a condition. The Department has received representations in the last six months on extending the period before the expiry of planning permissions from the Local Government Association, the Confederation of British Industry and the British Property Federation.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what use her Department and its predecessors have made of special development orders since May 1997. [262603]

Mr. Iain Wright: There have been two special development orders made in England since 1997. These were the Town and Country Planning (London Borough of Camden) Special Development Order 2004 (SI 2004/1231) and the Town and Country Planning (London Borough of Camden) Special Development (Amendment) Order 2004 (SI 2004/2355). The first order made provision for publicity for some planning applications (within the designated area) to be advertised on the internet. The amending order made an alteration as to compliance within the 21 day period for the display of notices, where notices are removed, obscured or defaced.

Planning Permission: Fees and Charges

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons the construction of fishing lakes is classified as mineral extraction for the purposes of planning fees and charges. [262145]

Mr. Iain Wright: Where the proposed fishing lake to be constructed is part of an aftercare condition attached to a permission for mineral extraction, a planning application fee would be charged under Category 9 (a) (fees category for mineral extraction) of Schedule 1, Part 2 of the Town and Country Planning (Fees for Applications and Deemed Applications (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2008). The mineral planning authority may also charge a fee for site visits to monitor the mineral permission during the aftercare period.

Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration she has given to the sale to the private sector of the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre; and if she will make a statement. [262321]

Mr. Khan: As was announced in the November 2008 pre-Budget report, Ministers concluded that there was no public policy rationale for the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre to remain in Government ownership. Alternatives to public ownership are under consideration, and an update will be provided in the 2009 Budget report.

Recycling

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether recyclable materials collected from street recycling bins are counted towards local authorities' national indicator set recycling figures and targets. [262657]

Mr. Khan: Yes. National Indicator 192—Percentage of household waste sent for reuse, recycling and composting—does include materials collected from street recycling bins. Full definitions of the National Indicator set are set out in the "National Indicators for Local Authorities and Local Authority Partnerships: Handbook of Definitions", available on the CLG website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/finalnationalindicators

Rented Housing

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what plans she has to bring forward legislative proposals to enact the provisions included in the Law Commission's Rented Homes Bill; [262721]

(2) what her policy is on the alignment of tenancy terms proposed by the Law Commission. [262722]

Mr. Iain Wright: The proposals in the Law Commission's Rented Homes Bill were considered as part of the Review of the Private Rented Sector which we commissioned Julie Rugg and David Rhodes to carry out last year. We will be responding formally to the review in the spring. That response will incorporate our response to the Law Commission's recommendations, including their proposals on the alignment of tenancy terms.

Rented Housing: Rent Deposit Schemes

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local housing authorities run rent deposit schemes; and if she will make a statement. [262509]

Mr. Iain Wright: We do not have official figures on the number of local housing authorities who run rent deposit schemes. However, in 2007 Communities and Local Government published a homelessness prevention survey submitted by 301 local authorities, representing 85 per cent. of the total. 201 authorities reported that they had rent deposit schemes in place and a further 45 authorities reported that they were planning to have rent deposit schemes in place. This shows that private rented accommodation is an effective housing option for preventing homelessness and provides a viable alternative to social housing.

The Government take all aspects of homelessness very seriously. We have allocated over £200 million to local authorities and voluntary organisations over the next three years (2008-11) to tackle and prevent homelessness in their area effectively. This is the biggest ever cash injection for homelessness services. Local organisations decide, based on local circumstances, how to use those resources to prevent homelessness.

Social Rented Housing

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of all social home lettings were made to people other than homeless applicants in *(a)* each region and *(b)* each London local authority area were in each year since 2000-01. [259758]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information about lettings to local authority landlords is collected via the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA). Estimates of lettings made to people 'other than homeless applicants' have been calculated using the total number of all local authority lettings made to both new and existing social housing tenants (but excluding mutual exchanges) less the number of lettings made to households owed the main homelessness duty (section 193(2) of the Housing Act 1996).

Table 1 shows the percentage of all local authority lettings made to households who were not owed the main homelessness duty for each region from 2000-01 to 2007-08.

Table 1: Percentage of all lettings by LA landlords made to applicants other than those owed the main homelessness duty (by region)

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
North East	90.7	88.8	87.1	80.6	79.7	83.1	83.9	85.7
North West	89.7	88.3	85.4	84.7	78.3	76.9	78.7	82.5
Yorkshire and the Humber	87.0	86.1	80.5	75.0	74.8	77.7	79.9	71.8
East Midlands	85.2	82.3	81.3	81.2	78.7	82.5	83.1	83.7
West Midlands	81.1	76.5	73.5	68.5	70.1	74.3	74.7	74.6
East of England	74.6	69.5	65.1	76.9	77.0	80.1	80.7	82.2
London	53.4	50.2	51.1	60.6	61.7	64.8	68.3	67.7
South East	67.3	62.6	62.9	79.0	77.6	80.1	81.5	79.9
South West	71.0	67.4	63.4	69.3	73.7	71.5	77.8	84.0
England	79.9	77.1	74.3	75.2	74.1	76.4	78.2	78.2

Notes:
1. The denominator 'all lettings' includes lets made to both new and existing social housing tenants, but excludes mutual exchanges.
2. The figures include general needs and supported housing lets.

Source:
Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix, derived from reported data from local authorities.

Table 2 shows the percentage of all local authority lettings made to households who were not owed the main homelessness duty for each local authority in London from 2000-01 to 2007-08.

Table 2: Percentage of all lettings by LA landlords made to applicants other than those owed the main homelessness duty (by London local authority)

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Barking and Dagenham	86.7	76.8	69.3	76.6	65.1	95.4	91.3	84.3
Barnet	36.7	34.2	27.3	62.8	70.7	76.8	78.9	65.8
Bexley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brent	46.7	34.2	46.0	51.0	58.2	44.1	54.4	53.9
Bromley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Camden	62.0	64.0	49.8	63.0	61.6	62.5	79.6	85.9
City of London	91.1	93.6	87.4	94.4	90.9	93.1	92.2	95.3
Croydon	18.5	26.2	60.0	83.6	82.5	86.3	83.7	75.6
Ealing	48.2	47.5	43.8	43.4	63.0	55.5	55.4	56.2
Enfield	61.4	50.8	48.4	51.5	53.7	54.8	51.6	57.7
Greenwich	55.3	62.8	63.2	59.7	64.3	67.4	70.6	74.1
Hackney	67.7	39.2	38.2	52.3	54.2	57.7	58.2	41.2
Hammersmith and Fulham	63.0	48.4	44.0	62.6	65.9	75.1	60.0	57.5
Haringey	30.3	75.8	66.2	60.6	57.1	52.7	70.6	54.9
Harrow	45.9	61.6	61.9	63.8	67.1	69.0	63.9	59.8
Havering	100.0	77.1	78.3	99.5	72.0	91.1	50.4	99.3
Hillingdon	42.1	68.2	45.7	53.2	65.2	73.9	64.5	74.8
Hounslow	50.8	42.7	54.0	47.4	37.3	52.4	56.3	57.7
Islington	44.8	43.9	43.6	40.9	51.9	61.4	61.8	64.1
Kensington and Chelsea	62.4	73.1	62.5	66.5	60.9	54.6	80.5	57.9
Kingston upon Thames	53.4	43.3	42.0	48.0	49.0	56.3	59.9	57.9
Lambeth	52.6	34.7	34.6	42.1	40.3	32.8	45.2	58.5

Table 2: Percentage of all lettings by LA landlords made to applicants other than those owed the main homelessness duty (by London local authority)

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Lewisham	70.1	65.2	58.1	58.9	53.7	77.1	84.2	58.2
Merton	85.3	78.3	77.3	73.1	66.6	70.0	85.4	94.9
Newham	38.4	33.9	61.8	85.6	87.3	82.2	79.6	77.1
Redbridge	58.7	66.6	63.2	71.5	81.2	80.3	68.5	73.7
Richmond upon Thames	45.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Southwark	53.6	37.4	41.3	47.0	51.5	61.4	76.6	80.6
Sutton	35.9	39.0	43.2	91.0	83.0	77.4	81.7	80.0
Tower Hamlets	39.3	34.8	39.1	67.5	73.6	41.7	66.0	67.0
Waltham Forest	34.8	33.7	32.6	52.0	62.9	54.8	46.1	50.9
Wandsworth	56.7	50.3	59.3	63.2	63.5	60.4	40.8	44.3
Westminster	45.1	43.2	51.6	43.3	51.3	50.2	63.5	56.2
London	53.4	50.2	51.1	60.6	61.7	64.8	68.3	67.7

'—' Indicates no local authority lettings were made due to local authority having undergone a large scale voluntary transfer (LSVT).

Notes:

1. The denominator 'all lettings' includes lets made to both new and existing social housing tenants, but excludes mutual exchanges.
2. The figures include general needs and supported housing lets.

Source:

Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix, derived from reported data from local authorities.

Information about lettings to registered social landlords (RSLs) is collected through the Continuous Recordings of Lettings (CORE) system. Estimates of lettings to people 'other than homeless applicants' have been calculated using the total number of all registered social landlord lettings made to both new and existing social housing tenants less the number of lettings recorded as being made to households owed the main homelessness duty (section 193(2) of the Housing Act 1996) and who were recorded as having been referred or nominated by a local authority.

Table 3 shows the percentage of all registered social landlord lettings made to households who were not owed the main homelessness duty for each region from 2000-01 to 2007-08.

Table 3: Percentage of all lettings by RSLs made to applicants other than those owed the main homelessness duty (by region)

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
North East	96.6	96.8	94.5	92.5	92.1	91.1	91.1	88.8
North West	95.3	94.6	95.2	93.9	93.3	91.9	91.4	91.5
Yorkshire and the Humber	95.1	95.3	94.7	95.1	94.3	93.0	92.5	90.9
East Midlands	93.8	93.3	92.2	90.1	91.6	89.6	88.7	88.6
West Midlands	93.8	92.5	91.6	89.8	88.0	89.0	89.6	89.3
East of England	90.6	88.9	86.1	84.1	85.5	84.1	83.1	84.8
London	85.5	85.5	84.9	84.5	84.9	84.6	82.1	81.8
South East	86.6	85.8	85.0	83.7	85.9	85.7	85.4	85.4
South West	85.1	84.4	84.0	82.0	83.2	83.3	83.9	82.5
England	91.1	90.6	89.9	88.6	88.6	88.1	87.6	87.3

Notes:

1. The denominator 'all lettings' includes lets made to both new and existing social housing tenants.
2. RSLs with less than 250 units are not required to complete CORE returns.
3. The figures include general needs and supported housing lets.

Source:

CORE

Table 4 shows the percentage of all registered social landlord lettings made to households who were not owed the main homelessness duty, for each local authority in London from 2000-01 to 2007-08.

Table 4: Percentage of all lettings by RSLs made to applicants other than those owed the main homelessness duty (by London local authority)

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Barking and Dagenham	95.0	97.1	96.5	96.1	94.2	75.5	89.0	85.1
Barnet	85.7	83.0	80.5	83.2	88.3	91.1	85.4	78.9
Bexley	77.7	74.8	76.9	80.0	80.9	87.5	82.7	87.3
Brent	83.2	82.6	72.5	78.6	84.8	83.9	81.9	76.8
Bromley	54.1	62.9	58.0	61.2	55.6	62.4	71.3	61.7
Camden	95.6	96.1	97.0	93.4	94.3	92.6	94.6	92.4

Table 4: Percentage of all lettings by RSLs made to applicants other than those owed the main homelessness duty (by London local authority)

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
City of London	100.0	100.0	97.3	94.7	100.0	100.0	97.5	98.1
Croydon	85.0	84.8	79.0	81.6	86.3	84.1	83.2	83.8
Ealing	83.9	82.9	79.5	71.7	79.3	65.8	62.3	67.9
Enfield	76.0	82.5	75.3	86.1	87.1	85.6	71.6	63.4
Greenwich	94.5	93.0	93.8	93.8	93.4	93.7	88.4	92.6
Hackney	86.4	89.2	87.9	89.3	86.7	88.5	84.0	87.5
Hammersmith and Fulham	90.9	90.3	88.2	84.3	83.6	88.3	76.2	77.4
Haringey	79.6	74.0	76.9	76.9	86.2	84.4	72.3	73.7
Harrow	73.3	65.5	78.5	58.4	69.8	63.5	76.1	77.3
Havering	94.9	93.5	95.8	95.1	84.5	98.3	94.4	91.0
Hillingdon	69.9	70.5	77.4	81.8	76.6	73.5	76.6	74.1
Hounslow	68.0	80.0	77.3	76.4	74.6	80.1	74.3	71.0
Islington	91.3	89.7	87.5	86.0	90.5	92.4	85.1	85.8
Kensington and Chelsea	89.7	89.0	88.3	80.5	82.3	86.4	75.2	81.0
Kingston upon Thames	63.8	78.2	71.3	83.8	71.0	76.0	72.3	66.0
Lambeth	92.5	84.6	86.3	84.0	87.4	87.1	86.7	84.3
Lewisham	89.0	92.1	91.0	90.8	90.9	81.7	88.5	85.1
Merton	88.6	90.8	89.6	89.2	79.2	83.1	87.4	90.2
Newham	89.6	89.7	88.3	92.1	92.9	92.8	90.2	86.4
Redbridge	80.1	86.9	89.4	85.1	94.3	96.1	87.7	89.9
Richmond upon Thames	70.5	70.5	72.4	71.5	65.9	65.3	66.0	64.0
Southwark	90.3	84.1	90.5	85.7	85.1	84.1	80.8	84.8
Sutton	83.1	81.8	79.9	88.4	85.7	83.0	80.5	80.2
Tower Hamlets	91.8	90.1	90.9	91.6	87.4	85.6	80.8	82.5
Waltham Forest	89.1	78.5	82.9	84.6	90.5	90.8	73.4	78.0
Wandsworth	91.7	91.0	86.1	86.6	85.6	87.8	81.1	81.8
Westminster	89.7	92.5	94.3	92.5	93.7	91.2	94.2	91.1
London	85.5	85.5	84.9	84.5	84.9	84.6	82.1	81.8

Notes:
1. The denominator 'all lettings' includes lets made to both new and existing social housing tenants.
2. RSLs with less than 250 units are not required to complete CORE returns.
3. The figures include general needs and supported housing lets.

Source:
CORE

Social Rented Housing: Standards

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what space standards *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* housing associations are required to follow when (i) building and (ii) purchasing new dwellings for social tenants. [262661]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government have no specific existing policy on the application of dwelling space standards for private sector homes. However, the Government's Planning Policy Statement 3: "Housing" (PPS3) is clear on the need to achieve high quality new housing, including promoting designs and layouts which make efficient use of land, encouraging innovative approaches to help deliver high quality outcomes, and contribute positively to making places better for people.

The Government's new delivery body, the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) is currently reviewing the benchmarks for high quality urban design, construction and environmental sustainability, including any space standards for new homes funded by the public sector.

In the meantime the HCA is continuing to operate under the regimes set in place by the Housing Corporation and English Partnerships, whereby (i) Design and Quality Strategy and Standards set out the Housing Corporation's requirements and recommendations for all housing projects which received Social Housing Grant, and (ii) Housing Quality Indicators set out English Partnership's requirements, both of which included a space standard.

Where local authorities build or acquire homes with funding from the HCA they are expected to meet the relevant conditions of the grant, and compliance with development standards is one of these.

Where HCA are purchasing stock from developers from the £200 million earmarked for this purpose, the Government have agreed that they may be flexible on design and quality standards to help house builders maintain housing production through the current difficult market conditions.

Sustainable Development

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to her Department's consultation paper on the Sustainable Communities Act 2007 whether she plans to extend local spending reports to include information on relevant executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies. [262155]

John Healey: On 20 February 2009, the Government launched a consultation on the Sustainable Communities Act 2007: Local spending reports. In this consultation, the Department is seeking views on proposals for putting in place the first arrangements for local spending reports including which bodies, expenditure, spatial level and period should be covered by the reports, and also how the reports might develop over time. The consultation on the first arrangements closes on Friday 3 April, and on Friday 15 May for how the reports should be developed over time.

Copies of the consultation document have been placed in the Library of the House.

Travelling People

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of Preparing Regional Spatial Strategy Reviews on Gypsies and Travellers. [262518]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have today placed a copy of the guidance document "Preparing Regional Spatial Strategy Reviews on Gypsies and Travellers provided by regional planning bodies" in the Library of the House.

Travelling People: Plymouth

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government by what date her Department has required Plymouth City Council to provide permanent sites for Travellers; and if she will make a statement. [259685]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Secretary of State published for consultation proposed changes to the regional spatial strategy for the south-west on 22 July 2008. This set out a requirement for 40 additional residential pitches and 15 additional transit pitches in Plymouth. Responses to those proposed changes are being considered. The final regional spatial strategy, setting out the number of pitches required will be published later this year.

Urban Areas: Regeneration

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what timetable she has set for the revision of Planning Policy Statement 6 on town centre planning; [262595]

(2) what the status of the proposed changes is to Planning Policy Statement 6, on planning for town centres; and when she plans to publish the results of the July 2008 consultation. [262679]

Mr. Iain Wright: The proposed changes to Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning for Town Centres are currently in draft form. A revised version of the policy will be published later this spring.

A summary of the responses to the July 2008 consultation was published on the Department's website on 4 February 2009. The information is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/pps6responses.pdf

Valuation Office: Rightmove

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 974W, on the Valuation Office: Rightmove, which estate agent industry sources other than Rightmove are routinely used by the Valuation Office Agency. [262542]

John Healey: The Valuation Office Agency makes use of a range of freely available sources of information from the estate agent industry across England (and Wales). A full list could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

HEALTH

Autism: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* schoolchildren and *(b)* adults have autism in (i) Hemel Hempstead and (ii) Hertfordshire; and if he will make a statement. [260941]

Phil Hope: The information requested is not held centrally.

Broomfield Hospital: Cancer

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were treated for cancer at Broomfield Hospital, Chelmsford in 2007. [261765]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not held centrally.

Broomfield Hospital: Manpower

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what resources will be allocated to Broomfield Hospital, Chelmsford following the Government's recent announcement of extra staff to tackle hospital infections. [261772]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not held centrally. The comprehensive spending review (CSR) funding settlement includes £270 million per year by 2010-11 to tackle healthcare associated infections (HCAIs). In 2008-09, the additional funding is reflected in the 5.5 per cent., increase in primary care trust (PCT) allocations and the 2.3 per cent. uplift to the national tariff (the latter specifically recognising the importance of tackling HCAIs and improving cleanliness).

The additional funding is not ring fenced, but rather is reflected in the 5.5 per cent., increase to PCT revenue allocations in 2008-09. In addition, the national tariff uplift for 2008-09 has an element that specifically recognises the importance of tackling infections and improving cleanliness. This means that all national health service organisations can afford to make significant investment and continue to make progress.

Some of the funding will be spent on implementing national policy—such as the requirement for all relevant elective patients to be screened for methicillin-resistant

Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) from April 2009 and for emergency admissions as soon as possible within the next three years.

Other areas where additional funding can be invested will be left to local discretion, but "clean, safe care" guides the local NHS as to areas where this will have the most impact—such as investing in specialist staff. The Government's CSR settlement allows for up to £45 million for this purpose, which could for example deliver two infection control nurses, one pharmacist and two nurses to care for patients in isolation, alongside additional infection control nurses in every community. As there is a shortage of trained staff in some areas, trusts may want to recruit to posts in infection control teams and train up additional infection control nurses.

Dental Services

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* children aged five and under, *(b)* children aged 18 and under and *(c)* persons aged 18 years and over, in each primary care trust area, had one or more teeth removed under general anaesthetic in each of the last five years. [261486]

Ann Keen: The exact information is not held centrally. Hospital Episode Statistics show the dental procedure carried out, but not whether a general anaesthetic was administered. However, dental treatment under general anaesthesia may only take place in a hospital setting that has a critical-care facility. It is therefore very likely, though not absolutely certain that a child admitted to hospital for extraction of teeth will have had general anaesthetic, and that was the reason for their admission to hospital. A table which contains the number of hospital episodes involving the extraction of teeth by age group and primary care trust has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date he expects the conclusions of his Department's independent review of NHS dentistry to be published. [262290]

Ann Keen: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 661W.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the number of NHS dentists who routinely refer patients to an hygienist at additional cost following a dental check-up; and if he will make a statement; [262487]

(2) whether he expects the cost of a dental check-up with an NHS dentist to include *(a)* treatment by an hygienist and *(b)* a scale and polish; and if he will make a statement. [262488]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally. National health service dental contracts require dentists to provide all proper clinically necessary dental care and treatment that the patient is willing to undergo. Which dental professional delivers the treatment is a clinical matter for the practice. A Band 1 course of treatment (diagnosis, treatment planning and maintenance) includes examination, diagnosis (for example x-rays), advice on how to prevent future problems, and scaling and polishing if clinically needed. Fee paying NHS patients will be charged £16.20 for a Band 1 course of treatment. Those exempt from NHS charges receive treatment without charge.

Patients who are assessed as not clinically needing a scale and polish are free to obtain it privately. As with any treatment if there is no clinical need for the patient to receive a scale and polish it is entirely appropriate that it is provided, if at all, outside the NHS.

Dental Services: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the net funding allocation to the Peterborough Primary Care Trust for primary dental services was in each year since 1 April 2006; and if he will make a statement. [261903]

Ann Keen: The primary dental service funding allocations made to Peterborough Primary Care Trust (PCT) for the three years 2006-07 to 2008-09 are in the following table. These are net of income from dental charges paid by patients, which are retained locally to supplement the resources available for dentistry. Actual expenditure levels are determined by the pattern and type of services commissioned by each PCT. PCTs may also dedicate some of their other national health service resources to dentistry if they consider this an appropriate local priority.

Primary dental service net funding allocations for Peterborough PCT

	Allocation (£000)
2006-07	7,967
2007-08	8,324
2008-09	9,158

Notes:

1. The allocation figure for 2006-07 is the aggregate of the allocations made initially to the North and South Peterborough PCTs before they merged to form the Peterborough PCT with effect from 1 October 2006.
2. PCTs are awarded separate funding allocations to meet the cost of any dental vocational trainees who may be placed with dental practices in their area.
3. Full allocation details for all PCTs for 2009-10 will be confirmed shortly, but the allocation for Peterborough PCT will be reduced by a transfer of £467,000 to Cambridgeshire PCT in line with an agreement between the two PCTs on a more appropriate distribution of resources to reflect their respective cross border service responsibilities.

Diabetes

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which primary care trusts have established policies on accepting clinical waste arising from the management of diabetes at GP surgeries; [R] [261395]

(2) what his Department's policy is on the disposal of clinical waste arising from the management of diabetes; and if he will make a statement. [R] [261406]

Ann Keen: Information about which primary care trusts have established policies on accepting diabetic clinical waste at general practitioner surgeries is not held centrally.

The Department published "Health Technical Memorandum 07-01: Safe management of healthcare waste" (copies of which have been placed the Library) to give clarification and advice to community healthcare professionals involved in the care of self-medicating patients, such as people with diabetes. It includes:

"Self-medicating patients and sharps disposal

19. Where the householder is a self-medicating patient who uses injectables (for example a person with diabetes) with no healthcare worker involved in the administration, the GP or healthcare worker should prescribe the householder the appropriate container (for example a sharps box) and advise them of local disposal options."

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many residential drug treatment places his Department funds; and what the average waiting time for a place in such a setting is; [262735]

(2) how many residential drug treatment places his Department plans to fund in *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2011. [262738]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not directly fund any residential rehabilitation. Decisions on how many residential drug treatment places to fund are made by local commissioning partnerships based on assessed local need and individually assessed client need. This information is not available centrally.

However, the national drug treatment monitoring system (NDTMS), managed by the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA), does collect data on the number of individuals receiving residential treatment. Latest figures show that in 2007-08, 4,306 adults were recorded in residential rehabilitation and 6,742 adults received in-patient services in hospital.

It is important to note that there is known under-reporting of referral data to the NDTMS, and so any figures regarding this sector are likely to be an under estimate of activity. As such, the data the NTA collects through the NDTMS is not a complete or accurate picture.

Waiting times data for residential drug treatment places has been supplied previously and I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 5 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1765W.

Gynaecology

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to increase *(a)* medical practitioners' and *(b)* public awareness of premature ovarian failure; and if he will make a statement. [260995]

Ann Keen: Premature ovarian failure (also called premature or early menopause) is defined as the onset of menopause before the age of 45 and affects at most 1 per cent. of women.

The management of women with premature ovarian failure is part of the core curriculum for training of all gynaecologists. The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists held a public meeting 'Premature menopause - A Change too soon' on 3 November 2007.

The Daisy Network Premature Menopause Support Group supports and gives advice to women who have experienced premature menopause.

Heart Diseases

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many men under the age of 35 years resident in *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency and *(b)* England had heart attacks in each of the last five years. [261766]

Ann Keen: The following table provides data from the East of England strategic health authority (SHA) (which includes West Chelmsford constituency). We are unable to break the data down into individual constituencies. The East of England strategic health authority was formed in 2006-07 by a merger of Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire; Essex; and Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire. Figures for 2003-04 to 2005-06 were calculated by summing these three together. It shows the number of males under the age of 35 years old who were admitted to hospital due to a heart attack:

Finished admission episodes

	East of England SHA[1]	*England*
2007-08	47	348
2006-07	40	343
2005-06	48	369
2004-05	43	368
2003-04	37	335

[1] Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire; Essex; and Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire prior to 2006-07

Notes:

Finished admission episodes:

A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

Primary diagnosis:

The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and 7 prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.

The ICD-10 codes used to identify heart attacks are as follows:

I21—acute myocardial infarction

I22—subsequent myocardial infarction

Number of episodes in which the patient had a (named) primary diagnosis:

These figures represent the number of episodes where the diagnosis was recorded in the primary diagnosis field in a HES record.

Data quality:

HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 national health service trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS information centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), the NHS information centre for health and social care.

Hospital Wards

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 25 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 874-5W, on hospital wards: gender, what milestones he has set between now and June for the project; and how he will assess the effects of the changes following their implementation. [260829]

Ann Keen: A number of milestones have been agreed that relate both to the Department's programme plan for eliminating mixed sex accommodation and to the use of the associated 'Privacy and Dignity' fund.

The milestones for the Privacy and Dignity fund are:

strategic health authority (SHA) plans will be submitted to the Department by 9 March 2009;

departmental ratification of the plans (which are to set out specific projects and timelines for improvements in the SHA regions) will take place in order to release the funds from 1 April 2009; and

local improvements and changes must be implemented by the end of June 2009.

SHAs will report to the Department every two weeks following the submission, and approval, of their local plans, confirming actions taken and variance from the planned milestones. The Department will also require a report from each SHA confirming the delivery of the plan by the beginning of July 2009.

Use of the privacy and dignity fund is likely to be informed by the requirement set out in the Operating Framework for the NHS 2009-10, that

"PCTs are expected to work with their local providers to deliver substantial and meaningful reductions in the number of patients who report that they share sleeping or sanitary accommodation with members of the opposite sex".

PCTs are asked to ensure plans will be published by the end of March 2009.

The programme for eliminating mixed sex accommodation comprises four workstreams; to raise the focus, develop metrics assurance, facilitate spread of good practice and deliver targeted support. The key milestones themselves include:

establishment of an operations team and a broader programme governance infrastructure (February 2009);

compilation of a communications strategy (March 2009);

begin improvement team's engagement with trusts requiring support (March 2009)

publishing a root cause analysis toolkit for local use by the NHS (April 2009);

'sharing good practice' event, (by end June 2009); and

phased handover of improvement activity to local health community arrangements (from June 2009 onwards).

The Department: will consider the outcome of inpatient surveys in assessing the success of these changes.

Malnutrition

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1028W, on malnutrition, what the statistical margin of error would be if the General Practice Research Database sample were used to project a population-wide figure; [262545]

(2) how frequently the analysis referred to is undertaken; and if he will make a statement. [262546]

Dawn Primarolo: The General Practice Research Database (GPRD) is a collection of data from general practices selected to be as geographically demographically representative as possible of the UK. The age and gender distribution is similar to that as detailed by the Office for National Statistics on the basis of census data. GPRD practices are provided with recording guidelines against which data quality is monitored.

The GPRD contains records of patients recorded as suffering from malnutrition under a range of different terms, known as 'Read Terms'. There are many thousands of Read codes in total, and 24 separate codes relating to malnutrition. This range of different codes is designed to allow the general practitioner (GP) to record the condition at different levels of specificity of disease. The Read code used is at the discretion of the GP and is based on their diagnosis of the patient's condition

The data as previously given are a reasonable population based estimate of the level of malnutrition, as recorded within primary care data, based upon the GPRD sample size.

The analysis undertaken to count the number of such cases, in the GPRD, is not done routinely. It was done in response to a specific request. The analysis could be repeated at any time in the future.

Maternity Services: Finance

Mr. Lamley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the tariff uplift breakdown for 2009-10, published by his Department on 5 February 2009, under which headings the additional funding his Department has provided for maternity services is included. [262638]

Ann Keen: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1478W.

Mental Health Services

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what effect he expects the NHS Constitution will have on levels of access to National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence-approved psychological therapies; and if he will make a statement. [261980]

Ann Keen: The NHS Constitution sets out that patients have the right to drugs and treatments that have been recommended by a National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) technology appraisal, if their doctor says they are clinically appropriate. This includes psychological therapies appraised by NICE. The right is underpinned by a statutory funding direction, in place since January 2002, which requires primary care trusts to make funding available for drugs and treatments recommended in a NICE technology appraisal, normally within three months of publication of the appraisal.

NHS: Lost Property

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the total cost of equipment *(a)* lost by and *(b)* stolen from the NHS in 2007-08. [262006]

Ann Keen: The information is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

NHS: Negligence

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was paid by the NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) to the 11 firms on the NHSLA panel for clinical cases for their services *(a)* on behalf of the NHSLA and *(b)* provided to claimants in each year since 1996-97. [262044]

Ann Keen: The NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) panel solicitors do not provide services to claimants therefore the amount paid by the NHSLA for clinical cases for their services provided to claimants is zero.

Providing data specifically for panel solicitors or for years prior to 1999 would be at disproportionate cost because the information is not readily accessible. Additionally, it is difficult to compare using information prior to 2002-03 because excess levels were operated on schemes, which means the data held do not cover all claims.

However, the NHSLA has provided the following table. The NHSLA does not have defence costs recorded prior to 1999 due to a change in accounting systems. Additionally, the NHSLA only records data by year for overall defence costs, which include barrister and medical expert fees alongside panel solicitors' fees.

NHSLA defence legal costs paid per year by scheme

£000

	Clinical negligence scheme for trusts	Existing liabilities scheme	Ex-regional health authorities	Total clinical
1999-2000	2,166	22,435	691	25,292
2000-01	7,223	†185,651	765	193,639
2001-02	†11,954	27,358	492	39,804
2002-03	35,919	21,905	398	58,222
2003-04	39,829	10,705	276	50,810
2004-05	40,016	12,206	206	52,428
2005-06	44,146	12,355	286	56,787
2006-07	43,334	10,162	244	53,740
2007-08	43,778	9,123	194	53,095

† The NHSLA operated excess levels on two clinical schemes whereby trusts themselves handled and funded claims below the excess levels. The NHSLA does not hold data related to these claims. Excess levels for each of the two schemes were removed in the marked years and outstanding claims below excess were then fully funded by the schemes. These years therefore include reimbursement by the NHSLA of legal costs already paid by trusts against those claims. It will also include legal costs associated with solicitors not on the NHSLA's panel because trusts were originally handling some of those claims themselves and will have appointed their own solicitors.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many clinical negligence cases were open on the NHS Litigation Authority database at the most recent date for which figures are available; and how many of them are being funded by *(a)* legal aid, *(b)* conditional fee agreements, *(c)* before the event insurance, *(d)* private means and *(e)* other means. [262745]

Ann Keen: The information requested was obtained from the NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) and is provided in the following table. Claimants are not required to provide details of their funding arrangements, but the NHSLA records this where it is known.

Number of clinical negligence claims open as at 28 February 2009

Claimant funding	Total
Before the Event Insurance	847
Conditional Fee Arrangement	3,743
Legal Services Commission	4,697
Self-funded	798
Unknown	1,453
Grand total	11,538

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many clinical negligence cases were brought in the last year for which figures are available; and how many of them were funded by *(a)* legal aid, *(b)* conditional fee agreements, *(c)* before the event insurance, *(d)* private means and *(e)* other means. [262744]

Ann Keen: The information requested was obtained from the NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) and is provided in the following table. Claimants are not required to provide details of their funding arrangements, but the NHSLA records this where it is known.

Number of clinical negligence claims received in 2007-08 as at 28 February 2009

Claimant funding	Total
Before the Event Insurance	418
Conditional Fee Arrangement	1,896
Legal Services Commission	1,209
Self-funded	679
Unknown	1,014
Grand total	5,216

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many clinical negligence cases were closed by the NHS Litigation Authority in the last year for which figures are available; how many of them were funded by *(a)* legal aid, *(b)* conditional fee agreements, *(c)* before the event insurance, *(d)* private means and *(e)* other means; and how many cases in each category of funding resulted in an award of damages or a settlement involving an agreement to pay damages. [262747]

Ann Keen: The information requested was obtained from the NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) and is provided in the following table. Claimants are not required to provide details of their funding arrangements, but the NHSLA records this where it is known.

Number of clinical negligence claims closed in 2007-08 as at 28 February 2009

Claimant funding	Damages awarded	No damages	Grand total
Before the Event Insurance	287	91	378
Conditional Fee Arrangement	1,132	438	1,570
Legal Services Commission	1,133	803	1,936
Self-funded	425	286	711
Unknown	495	1,089	1,584
Grand total	3,472	2,707	6,179

NHS: Pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discretion is available to *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* pension scheme trustees in respect of the annual indexation for retired members of the (i) NHS Pension Scheme and (ii) New NHS Pension Scheme; and whether pension payments will fall should the retail price index inflation fall in the 12 month period to the end of September 2009. [262805]

Ann Keen: Current Social Security legislation provides for public service pensions to be adjusted by the same rate as the State Second Pension, and for such adjustments to take place only if there has been an increase in prices over a given period.

NHS: Public Appointments

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of NHS trust chief executive officers appointed within the last three years *(a)* previously held other positions within the NHS, *(b)* previously worked elsewhere in the public sector and *(c)* held a position in the private sector immediately before their appointment. [260296]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

NHS: Redundancy Pay

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the likely redundancy costs for each primary care trust (PCT) arising from the latest reorganisation of PCTs; and if he will make a statement. [259949]

Ann Keen: Unfortunately the information does not exist in the format requested.

The Department collected data on the value of redundancies and early retirements due to primary care trust (PCT) reorganisation in 2006-07, but we cannot separate the redundancy element from these figures. However, the Department did collect these costs separately in 2007-08.

The information that the Department has collected is shown in the following table. Other restructuring costs include early retirement costs as well as other costs arising from the restructuring process.

The PCT reconfiguration programme was undertaken to help to improve relationships between health care and local authorities by bringing their boundaries closer together and to make savings to the local national health service by reducing management costs. These savings will be reinvested in front line services.

£000

Name	2006-07 Redundancies and early retirements due to PCT reorganisation	2007-08 Redundancies due to PCT reorganisation	2007-08 Other restructuring costs due to PCT reorganisation
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	0	0	0
Barking and Dagenham PCT	0	184	0
Barnet PCT	0	0	187
Barnsley PCT	0	6	0
Bassetlaw PCT	0	0	0
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	0	0	0
Bedfordshire PCT	781	203	0
Berkshire East PCT	17	500	0
Berkshire West PCT	533	116	1,405
Bexley NHS Care Trust PCT	38	0	0
Birmingham East and North PCT	0	0	0
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	0	0	0
Blackpool PCT	0	0	0
Bolton PCT	0	0	0
Bournemouth and Poole PCT	0	0	0
Bradford and Airedale PCT	2,142	900	0
Brent Teaching PCT	0	0	0
Brighton and Hove City PCT	0	0	0
Bristol PCT	0	0	0
Bromley PCT	0	0	0
Buckinghamshire PCT	0	100	0
Bury PCT	0	0	0
Calderdale PCT	0	0	0
Cambridgeshire PCT	1,023	0	0
Camden PCT	0	0	0
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	0	0	0
Central Lancashire PCT	2,675	0	0
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	0	0	0
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	0	0	0
County Durham PCT	4,118	1,803	0
Coventry Teaching PCT	0	1,000	0
Croydon PCT	0	0	0
Cumbria PCT	0	0	0
Darlington PCT	0	593	0
Derby City PCT	0	0	0
Derbyshire County PCT	405	0	0
Devon PCT	1,358	1,050	170
Doncaster PCT	0	0	0
Dorset PCT	506	1,356	0
Dudley PCT	110	0	0
Ealing PCT	0	0	0
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	334	0	0
East Lancashire PCT	162	0	0
East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	65	0	0
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	3,101	0	0
Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	998	0	0
Enfield PCT	0	0	0
Gateshead PCT	0	1,621	0
Gloucestershire PCT	908	0	0
Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	2,527	0	0
Greenwich Teaching PCT	0	0	0
Halton and St. Helens PCT	476	0	0
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	0	0	0
Hampshire PCT	227	2,493	4,069
Haringey Teaching PCT	0	150	20
Harrow PCT	0	0	0
Hartlepool PCT	0	150	0
Hastings and Rother PCT	2,259	0	0
Havering PCT	0	0	500

£000

Name	2006-07 Redundancies and early retirements due to PCT reorganisation	2007-08 Redundancies due to PCT reorganisation	2007-08 Other restructuring costs due to PCT reorganisation
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	0	197	0
Herefordshire PCT	0	348	0
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	1,933	91	0
Hillingdon PCT	0	0	0
Hounslow PCT	0	0	0
Hull PCT	294	0	60
Isle of Wight NHS PCT	631	0	0
Islington PCT	0	0	0
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	0	20	0
Kingston PCT	0	0	0
Kirklees PCT	121	0	0
Knowsley PCT	0	0	0
Lambeth PCT	0	0	0
Leeds PCT	1,328	2,561	0
Leicester City PCT	1,272	1,100	0
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	2,334	386	0
Lewisham PCT	0	130	0
Lincolnshire PCT	600	0	0
Liverpool PCT	431	0	0
Luton PCT	0	0	0
Manchester PCT	929	0	0
Medway PCT	0	188	0
Mid Essex PCT	3,264	1,077	90
Middlesbrough PCT	0	1,172	495
Milton Keynes PCT	0	0	279
Newcastle PCT	0	2,059	0
Newham PCT	0	0	0
Norfolk PCT	3,549	0	0
North East Essex PCT	935	0	0
North East Lincolnshire PCT	0	106	179
North Lancashire PCT	1,708	1,000	0
North Lincolnshire PCT	0	0	0
North Somerset PCT	0	0	0
North Staffordshire PCT	0	487	0
North Tees PCT	0	688	0
North Tyneside PCT	0	670	50
North Yorkshire and York PCT	2,300	3,916	0
Northamptonshire PCT	1,394	300	150
Northumberland Care PCT	0	2,202	0
Nottingham City PCT	0	0	0
Nottinghamshire County PCT	554	115	826
Oldham PCT	0	0	0
Oxfordshire PCT	494	620	1,519
Peterborough PCT	503	42	0
Plymouth Teaching PCT	0	0	0
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	0	0	0
Redbridge PCT	0	0	0
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	766	986	0
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	0	0	0
Rotherham PCT	0	0	0
Salford PCT	0	0	0
Sandwell PCT	685	0	0
Sefton PCT	1,101	0	0
Sheffield PCT	891	2,476	0
Shropshire County PCT	0	0	0
Solihull NHS Chge Trust PCT	172	720	0
Somerset PCT	1,085	0	0
South Birmingham PCT	0	0	0
South East Essex PCT	66	0	389
South Gloucestershire PCT	0	0	0
South Staffordshire PCT	61	500	0
South Tyneside PCT	0	2,296	0
South West Essex PCT	1,412	0	0
Southampton City PCT	0	0	0
Southwark PCT	0	0	0
Stockport PCT	0	0	0
Stoke on Trent PCT	222	703	0
Suffolk PCT	2,556	422	0
Sunderland Teaching PCT	0	2,020	0
Surrey PCT	4,592	1,390	0
Sutton And Merton PCT	0	0	0
Swindon PCT	0	0	0
Tameside and Glossop PCT	0	0	749
Telford and Wrekin PCT	0	0	0
Torbay Care PCT	0	0	0
Tower Hamlets PCT	0	155	0
Trafford PCT	0	0	0
Wakefield District PCT	694	238	0
Walsall Teaching PCT	0	0	0
Waltham Forest PCT	0	268	0
Wandsworth PCT	0	0	0
Warrington PCT	0	0	0
Warwickshire PCT	967	204	1,210
West Essex PCT	575	318	0
West Hertfordshire PCT	398	0	0
West Kent PCT	2,304	0	0
West Sussex PCT	4,633	308	0
Western Cheshire PCT	1,241	0	0
Westminster PCT	0	0	0
Wiltshire PCT	0	329	60

£000

Name	2006-07 Redundancies and early retirements due to PCT reorganisation	2007-08 Redundancies due to PCT reorganisation	2007-08 Other restructuring costs due to PCT reorganisation
Wirral PCT	455	0	0
Wolverhampton City PCT	0	0	0
Worcestershire PCT	197	360	111
Total	74,521	45,393	12,528

Source:
Primary care trust audited summarisation schedules for 2007-08.

NHS: Temporary Employment

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received on the potential additional cost to the NHS of changes to the value added tax treatment of agency staff; what estimate he has made of that potential cost; and if he will make a statement. [262120]

Ann Keen: Due to the way in which correspondence is logged, information on the specific number of representations received on the potential additional costs to the national health service of changes to the value added tax treatment of agency staff could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The latest estimate of the potential cost to the NHS is £26 million per year, revised from an earlier estimate of £30 million when VAT stood at 17.5 per cent.

Nurses: Manpower

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the ratio of nurses to patients was at *(a)* Darlington Memorial Hospital, *(b)* York District Hospital, *(c)* Harrogate District Hospital, *(d)* Guy's and St. Thomas' Hospital and *(e)* Charing Cross Hospital in (i) 2008, (ii) 2007, (iii) 2006 and (iv) 1997. [261655]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally.

Pharmacy: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many licensed pharmacies there were in West Chelmsford constituency in each of the last five years. [261804]

Phil Hope: The NHS Information Centre does not hold data on the number of licensed pharmacies but we do hold the number of community pharmacies in contract with their primary care trust (PCT) at the 31 March each year.

The NHS Information Centre first published these data for 2004-05 so figures for four financial years only have been provided.

The information is held by PCT only. Prior to 2006 the PCT area which best fits West Chelmsford constituency was Chelmsford PCT. From 2006 the PCT which covers West Chelmsford constituency is Mid Essex PCT. Mid Essex PCT is larger than the old Chelmsford PCT which may account for the larger number of pharmacies listed.

Number of community pharmacies in contract with PCT at 31 March

	Chelmsford PCT	Mid Essex PCT
2004-05	21	—
2005-06	21	—
2006-07	—	54
2007-08	—	54

Note:
Each community pharmacy has an arrangement with a PCT to dispense NHS prescriptions. The arrangement specifies both the premises and the named contractor. Community pharmacies can dispense the full range of drugs and appliances as listed in the monthly Drug Tariff published by the NHS Prescription Services (previously known as the Prescription Pricing Division or PPD) of the NHS Business Services Authority.

Social Services

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people of working age in each local authority who were assessed as having a level of social care need *(a)* received and *(b)* did not receive state-funded social care support in each of the last five years. [262047]

Phil Hope: Data on the outcome of social care assessments for people of working age (aged 18-64) are collected and published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care. The table giving this information has been placed in the Library. Data on the level of social care need are not held centrally. It is for individual local authorities to decide on the eligibility criteria for receiving state-funded social care services.

Social Services: Finance

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how he plans to monitor consistency in the allocation of individual budgets among local authorities. [261348]

Phil Hope: The Government are committed to driving forward increased personalisation of public services, including ensuring that people using social care services should have access to maximum independence, choice and control. Personal budgets, building on the success of direct payments and the experiences of the thirteen individual budget pilot sites, are central to this aim.

Councils will be supported to make substantial progress on transforming their systems to deliver personalised services over the next two years. The ring-fenced social care reform grant provides £520 million to help councils redesign and reshape their systems over the next three years in order to deliver this transformation. Performance across health and social care will be measured against relevant indicators in the national indicator set and any relevant local area agreement (LAA) improvement targets. This information will inform the Care Quality Commission's assessments of primary care trusts and councils across health and adult social care which, in turn, contribute to the comprehensive area assessment.

In addition to the existing performance mechanisms, the Department and its partners are working to improve the adult social care indicators for future spending cycles. This work builds on the lessons learnt from the current national indicator set and the first round of the LAAs. The revised indicators are likely to form part of the evidence base for both future assessments by the inspectorates and the foundation for the next round of LAAs. The Department is now taking initial development

work forward in partnership with Association of Directors of Adult Social Services regional networks, joint investment plans and other local sector stakeholders and as part of a wider Government review of the indicator set for the next comprehensive spending review period.

Strokes

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which acute hospitals are equipped to provide *(a)* thrombolysis and *(b)* CT scanning for patients who have undergone suspected strokes; and which of those are able to provide each service at all times. [261483]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally. However, the National Sentinel Stroke Audit, prepared by the Royal College of Physicians and which is based on clinical data collected directly from national health service trusts, details the latest evidence on the provision of stroke services including thrombolysis and CT scanning. The most recent audit is available at the college's internet website at:

www.rcplondon.ac.uk/clinical-standards/ceeu/Current-work/Documents/Public%20organisational%20report2008.pdf

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Air Pollution: Scotland

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to bring forward legislation to amend the Clean Air Act 1993 to take account of recent changes in solid fuel combustion in Scotland. [260973]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I have been asked to reply.

There are, as yet, no firm plans to amend the Clean Air Act 1993 in response to changes in fuel use patterns in Scotland.

The Clean Air Act 1993 is an important part of the regulatory system which is helping to improve air quality and protect public health. Its provisions cover the whole of the UK and any changes to it need to be considered on that basis. Such consideration will need to take into account the different ways in which the UK's Devolved Administrations will seek to deliver the increases in renewable heat and energy needed to achieve the UK's obligations.

British Plastics Federation

Mr. Illsley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to reply to the letter sent to him by the British Plastics Federation on 4 November 2008 on the climate change levy. [257813]

Joan Ruddock: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State replied to the letter from the British Plastics Federation on 27 February 2009.

Carbon Challenge Programme

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been allocated to the Carbon Challenge Programme in each year since its inception. [260990]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 4 March 2009]:* I have been asked to reply.

The Carbon Challenge was launched in February 2007. This initiative has been developed by the Homes and Communities Agency on behalf of the Department. It is aimed at helping the house-building industry accelerate its response to climate change through innovation and the development of skills. Homes delivered through the Carbon Challenge will be designed to meet the highest level of the Code for Sustainable Homes and will emit net zero carbon in the course of a year.

The Homes and Communities Agency has allocated £750,000 to the initiative over a three year period from 2007-08 until 2009-10. To date overall expenditure has amounted to £341,017 on the first phase of four sites which are owned by the public sector. This covers matters such as the development of the generic brief for the sites, the provision of advice to partners as well as monitoring and evaluation.

Carbon Emissions

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the implications of the European Court of Justice's ruling in the Citiworks case for achievement of the Government's targets for carbon dioxide emissions reduction. [255154]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Although no specific assessment has been made of the implications of the Citiworks ruling for carbon dioxide emissions reductions, DECC will be consulting on the full implications of the Citiworks ruling and any necessary legislative changes later this year.

Christmas

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department has spent on *(a)* Christmas cards, *(b)* Christmas decorations and *(c)* Christmas parties since its inception. [261051]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: DECC has spent nothing on Christmas cards, decorations or parties. DECC's Christmas greetings were sent to recipients as e-cards, via e-mail. These e-cards were designed in-house using images submitted by staff, at no additional cost.

Climate Change

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to publish his response to the Eliasch Review. [260026]

Joan Ruddock: The UK is already acting on the Eliasch Review recommendations in most areas and is taking forward the analysis in relevant parts of the climate change negotiations for a future arrangement through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The Government do not intend to make a formal response to the review.

Electricity Generation

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what further reports he expects to be published by the Electricity Networks Strategy Group. [262713]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: A second phase of the ENSG 2020 Electricity Transmission Network study, available at

http://www.ensg.gov.uk/assets/1696-01-ensg_vision2020.pdf

will now consider generation scenarios for 2025 and 2030. A report of this further work is expected to be published in the spring.

Energy Saving Trust

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the cost to his Department and its predecessor of *(a)* the Energy Saving Trust and *(b)* its contractors has been since the Trust's inception; to which (i) regional and (ii) local organisations the Energy Saving Trust contracts domestic and business consumer enquiries; how many complaints about its service the Energy Saving Trust and its contractors received in each of the last two years; what assessment his Department makes of the cost-effectiveness of the Energy Saving Trust; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Energy Saving Trust in reducing domestic and business greenhouse gas emissions. [262434]

Joan Ruddock: The Energy Saving Trust is a private company limited by guarantee, and details of their contractors and complaints procedures are therefore a matter for the trust's board.

The Department grant funds the Energy Saving Trust year-on-year, supporting the valuable work in the domestic carbon abatement field. We do not fund the Energy Saving Trust for business consumer inquiries. The Department and its predecessors grant funded the trust annually as follows[1]:

	Funding (£ million)
1996-97	25
1997-98	19
1998-99	19
1999-2000	23
2000-01	22
2001-02	22
2002-03	24
2003-04	25
2004-05	28
2005-06	27
2006-07	27
2007-08	29
2008-09	35

Analysis in the Climate Change Programme (March 2006) showed that the trust's activity is very cost-effective in terms of £/tCO_2. In 2007-08 the overall cost-effectiveness of the trust's work improved to £1.20 per tonne of lifetime carbon dioxide saved. The trust's influenced lifetime CO_2 savings have improved in 2007-08 to 21.5mt CO_2 compared to 16mt CO_2 in 2006-07. The EST's activities make an effective and respected contribution to our climate change ambitions.

[1] We do not have figures for Departmental funding from 1992-1996.

Fossil Fuels: North Sea

Sir Robert Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the oral answer of 5 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 980-81, what discussions he has had with industry representatives on the effect of phase 3 of the European Emission Trading Scheme on the attractiveness of the UK continental shelf to global oil and gas investors. [R] [262301]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The impact of phase III of the EU emission trading system (EU ETS) on the UK upstream oil and gas industry was discussed at the PILOT meeting on 10 February 2009 which was chaired by the Secretary of State of Energy and Climate Change. The meeting was attended by representatives of the oil and gas industry, including Oil and Gas UK. Officials from the Department of Energy and Climate Change are continuing to work with Oil and Gas UK and individual companies to analyse the impacts of phase III of the EU ETS on the sector.

Fuel Poverty

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking together with local authorities and devolved Administrations to reduce levels of fuel poverty. [261974]

Joan Ruddock: Since 2000 over £20 billion has been spent on fuel poverty benefits and programmes.

This includes the Warm Front Scheme in England, carbon emissions reduction target and the Decent Homes Programme primarily addressing the energy efficiency of households, winter fuel and cold weather payments to increase household incomes.

The combination of national and local programmes and delivery through local government, partnerships and area-based schemes can help target areas of particular need. We are currently consulting on the Community Energy Savings Programme (CESP), where we propose to support energy efficiency measures at a local, community level, by fostering new and existing partnerships between energy companies, local authorities, voluntary organisations and other such bodies, to offer support to poorer communities on a house-by-house, street-by-street basis.

As part of the Local Government Framework, National Indicator 187 (Tackling Fuel Poverty) has been designed to measure the proportion of households on income-related benefits for whom an energy assessment of their housing has been carried out and have a SAP of below 35 or greater than 65. We are encouraged that 40 out of 150 local area agreements (LAAs) have included NI187 as one of their 35 local improvement targets and have set challenging but achievable targets. All local authorities will have to report on progress each year.

Responsibility for fuel poverty policy is a devolved matter. Ministers across Government and the devolved nations discuss policy to tackle fuel poverty and we publish an annual report which includes information on progress in the devolved Administrations.

Kingsnorth Power Station

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to announce his decision on the construction of the proposed Kingsnorth power station. [262138]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: A decision on the application by E.ON UK plc for consent under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 for a 1600MW coal fired power station at Kingsnorth will follow the conclusion of both the consultation on carbon capture readiness and the planned new consultation on a new framework for coal fired power stations.

Natural Gas

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the reduction in domestic production of natural gas on security of energy supply; and if he will make a statement. [259587]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Companies are bringing forward new gas supply infrastructure to meet the gradual decline in the UK's stocks of indigenous gas. Our import capacity has increased by 400 per cent. in the last 10 years, and is now equivalent to some 120 per cent. of our annual gas consumption. In addition, 18 commercial gas storage projects are in different stages of development; if they were all to come forward they could give us storage capacity equivalent to some 20 per cent. of our current gas consumption by around 2020.

Wind Power: Planning Permission

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department makes available to local communities whose areas are the subject of onshore wind farm applications; what formal guidance his Department provides to local authorities considering each application; and if he will make a statement. [262142]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government have a comprehensive framework of national planning policy and guidance on renewable energy. This is in addition to the body of guidance for local planning authorities on handling planning applications and engagement with local communities affected by planning applications. Communities and Local Government's Planning Policy Statement on Climate Change (PPS1) and Renewable Energy (PPS22) set out the considerations that will be relevant to planning applications for wind farms. There is also detailed guidance for practitioners in the companion guides supporting both PPSs.

The Department also makes available guidance on community involvement in wind energy development which can be downloaded at

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/sources/renewables/policy/renewables-advisory-board/community-involvment-wind/guidance-local-authority-officers/page35088.html.

In addition, the guidance on applications for large-scale energy developments (over 50MW) under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 makes clear the need to ensure that local communities are consulted at an early stage. This can be downloaded at

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file42017.pdf.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Carers' Benefits

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with representatives of carers' interest groups on proposals for payments of carer's allowance to people who have retired from work and continue to care for relatives. [261962]

Jonathan Shaw: In our Carers Strategy, published in June 2008, we set out our vision of the support we aim to provide for carers over the next 10 years. In developing our Carers Strategy, we conducted one of the most in-depth and widespread consultations ever held on carers' issues. This included discussions with carers' interest groups on a wide range of benefit issues.

People who have retired from work but continue to care for relatives are not excluded from claiming carer's allowance. Although carer's allowance will not usually be payable where state pension is in payment, the person can still access the carer premium, currently £27.75 a week, in the income-related benefits such as housing benefit and council tax benefit, or the equivalent additional amount for carers in pension credit. In addition, where someone would receive less from state pension than from carer's allowance, an amount of carer's allowance can be paid to make up the difference.

Children: Maintenance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many benefit claimants in *(a)* Great Britain, *(b)* each region and *(c)* each London borough did not receive the full child support payment in each of the last 12 months. [242177]

Kitty Ussher: The administration of the child maintenance system is a matter for the Commissioner of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many claimants in *(a)* Great Britain *(b)* each region and *(c)* each London borough did not receive the full child support payment in each of the last 12 months. [242177]

It should be noted that the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008 made changes to the way child maintenance is paid to parents with care in receipt of income based benefits. Prior to 27 October 2008, the Child Support Agency, on behalf of the Secretary of State, was required to retain a proportion of child maintenance received in respect of parents with care in receipt of income based benefits. From 27 October 2008, the Agency forwards all maintenance received and parents with care in receipt of benefits will need to inform Jobcentre Plus about any maintenance they have received.

The information you have requested in respect of the number of cases where the non-resident parent paid all, part or none of the child maintenance due in the previous quarter is included in the tables which have been placed in the Library.

Some non-resident parents will go to great lengths to avoid fulfilling their responsibilities to their children. The Child Support Agency has made improvements to how it is collecting and enforcing maintenance and is now consistently collecting and arranging record amounts of child maintenance, with over £1.1 billion collected or arranged in the year to the end of December 2008.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Table A: Maintenance Outcome by Government Office Region and London Local Authority – March 2008

	Number		*Percentage*				
	None	*Full*	*Over 1-20*	*Over 20-40*	*Over 40- 60*	*Over 60-80*	*Over 80 to under 100*
Agency	276,800	402,500	15,700	20,700	23,300	37,000	48,500
Government Office Region							
East Midlands	20,500	29,700	1,000	1,500	1,700	2,800	3,400
Eastern	22,900	33,900	1,100	1,800	1,800	2,900	3,500
London	27,600	31,100	1,400	1,900	2,200	3,200	4,100
North East	17,500	23,700	1,300	1,400	1,700	2,500	3,400
North West	34,500	53,400	2,200	2,700	3,300	5,800	7,500
Scotland	25,500	35,200	1,700	2,100	2,200	3,300	4,700
South East	34,000	54,500	1,700	2,300	2,400	3,900	5,200
South West	23,100	40,400	1,200	1,600	1,800	3,100	3,800
Wales	15,000	24,400	900	1,200	1,400	2,400	3,400
West Midlands	26,000	38,400	1,700	2,200	2,500	3,600	4,600
Yorkshire/Humber	29,100	37,200	1,500	2,100	2,300	3,500	4,600
London local authority							
Barking and Dagenham	1,160	1,220	40	60	70	120	160
Barnet	1,000	910	50	50	50	70	120
Bexley	1,070	1,460	40	50	80	110	140
Brent	750	820	30	40	70	90	130
Bromley	920	1260	40	50	80	80	120
Camden	570	590	30	30	30	50	90
City of London	10	10	—	—	—	—	—
Croydon	1,770	1,910	110	130	130	200	260
Ealing	970	1,170	50	80	110	180	130
Enfield	1,320	1,260	70	80	100	180	200
Greenwich	1,210	1,220	70	90	100	200	210
Hackney	690	750	50	50	50	110	110
Hammersmith and Fulham	490	440	30	30	50	90	140
Haringey	890	790	50	70	70	70	120
Harrow	510	720	20	50	40	110	40
Havering	750	1,350	30	60	90	50	140
Hillingdon	940	1,140	50	80	70	70	150
Hounslow	840	1,200	40	50	80	110	150
Islington	850	790	30	50	60	90	110
Kensington and Chelsea	320	390	10	20	20	20	60
Kingston upon Thames	320	540	20	30	20	60	50
Lambeth	1,330	1,100	100	90	110	140	200
Lewisham	1,490	1,350	80	140	130	170	150
Merton	660	790	40	70	50	70	100
Newham	950	990	50	70	80	90	140
Redbridge	810	970	40	40	50	90	130
Richmond upon Thames	330	600	30	10	10	20	50
Southwark	1,400	1,350	80	100	110	170	180
Sutton	610	1,030	50	30	50	120	80
Tower Hamlets	700	710	40	50	70	60	90
Waltham Forest	860	1,010	40	60	60	90	210
Wandsworth	740	780	40	80	70	100	110
Westminster	390	500	30	30	40	40	70

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many new applications have been made to the Child Support Agency by *(a)* parents with care claiming income support and *(b)* other parents with care in each of the last 24 months. [260115]

Kitty Ussher: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many new applications have been made to the Child Support Agency by (a) parents with care claiming income support and (b) other parents with care in each of the last 24 months.

Information on the number of applications received each month is routinely published in Table 2.1 of the Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics (QSS). The latest copy of which is in the House of Commons library or online at the following link:

http://www.childmaintenance.org/publications/statistics.html

The Child Maintenance and other Payments Act 2008 changed the nature of the relationship between the child maintenance and benefits systems; ending the compulsion on parents with care in receipt of income based benefits to use the Child Support Agency. Prior to 14 July 2008 all parents with care making a new application for either Income Support or income based Jobseekers Allowance were compelled to make an application for child maintenance to the Child Support Agency. The Agency therefore recorded information on new applications distinguishing between those notified by Jobcentre Plus in respect of parents claiming Income Support and Jobseekers Allowance or those which were classed as a 'private' application made by either parent without compulsion.

Such information as is available on child maintenance applications by source is provided in the attached table.

Current scheme applications by source of application

	Jobcentre Plus applications	*Private applications*
January 2007	19,000	5,600
February 2007	27,700	5,900
March 2007	21,400	5,900
April 2007	16,500	5,900
May 2007	18,800	6,000
June 2007	19,600	6,400
July 2007	18,600	6,100
August 2007	20,300	6,400
September 2007	18,600	6,400
October 2007	20,300	7,100
November 2007	20,900	6,100
December 2007	14,100	4,000
January 2008	21,300	6,900
February 2008	20,500	6,500
March 2008	15,700	6,000
April 2008	17,800	6,700
May 2008	16,200	6,300
June 2008	17,400	6,700
July 2008	18,500	6,700
August 2008	10,600	5,900
September 2008	5,100	6,800
October 2008	900	7,000
November 2008	—	7,300
December 2008	—	5,300

Notes:

1. A change in legislation in October 2008 removed the compulsion for parents with care on income based benefit (Income Support or Jobseeker's Allowance (Income Based)) to pursue a claim for child support through the Agency. After this date, it is expected that some parents with care will opt to end their child support claim with CSA. This can be seen as a fall in overall caseload after October 2008.
2. In the run up to the change, a further legislative repeal in July 2008 means that single parents making a new claim for income based benefit will no longer be referred to CSA. Some will make direct arrangements with the Agency, but they are not compelled to do so. This change can be seen as a huge fall (to zero) in the numbers of potential new claims received directly from Jobcentre Plus from October 2008.
3. All cases received from October 2008 were classed as private intake. Any cases that were received from this time will be classed as private intake regardless of benefit status.
4. Jobcentre Plus applications include all applications originating from Jobcentre Plus where the parent with care is in receipt of Income Support or income based Jobseekers' Allowance at the time of application. It is not possible to identify those on Income Support separately.

Cold Weather Payments: Leyton

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been paid in cold weather payments to people in Leyton and Wanstead constituency in 2008-09. [252124]

Kitty Ussher: Estimates of cold weather payment expenditure in 2008-09 to date are not available by parliamentary constituency or local authority, but only by weather station.

Community Care Grants

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what budget his Department allocated for community care grants in 2007-08; [252698]

(2) what the maximum sum awarded to *(a)* an individual and *(b)* a family was under the community care grant in 2007-08; [252699]

(3) how many individuals received community care grants *(a)* once and *(b)* more than once in 2007-08; [252700]

(4) how many asylum seekers have received community care grants in each of the last five years. [252934]

Kitty Ussher: The Department allocated a budget of £141 million for community care grants for Great Britain in 2007-08. There was also a contingency reserve of £1 million, which was available to cover unforeseen spending, for example, on flooding.

The remaining information requested is not available.

However, the maximum community care grant awarded in 2007-08 for all successful applicants (as opposed to individuals and families separately) was £5,081.46. The number of successful applicants (as opposed to individuals) who received community care grants in 2007-08 *(a)* once was 229,100 and *(b)* more than once was 23,900 (both figures rounded to the nearest 100).

Source:

Analysis of a scan of Community Care Grant final decisions taken in 2007-08 and held on the Social Fund Computer System on 31 July 2008. A final decision is either an initial decision or a review decision. An application is successful if an award is made initially and/or on review. Successful applications on which initial decisions were made before 2007-08, but which were reviewed in 2007-08 are included. Successful applications on which initial decisions were made in 2007-08 but which were reviewed after the year ended are not included.

Council Tax Benefits

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of *(a)* housing benefit and *(b)* council tax benefit recipients were (i) pensioners and (ii) of working age in each local authority area in each of the last 24 months; and if he will make a statement. [260113]

Kitty Ussher: The latest available information has been placed in the Library.

Information is not available broken down by month.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children living in poverty live in households which are not eligible for *(a)* full and *(b)* partial council tax benefit. [261558]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 6 March 2009]:* Estimates of the population entitled to council tax benefit among children in households below average income are not available.

The latest estimates of take-up of and entitlement to means-tested benefits in Great Britain, covering income support, pension credit, housing benefit, council tax benefit and jobseeker's allowance (income based) are published in the report "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2006-07". This report has been placed in the Library.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* pensioners and *(b)* people of working age are (i) in receipt of council tax benefit and (ii) eligible for council tax benefit and live in households where no one is eligible to pay income tax. [261559]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 6 March 2009]:* The information requested is in the table.

Total number of recipients of council tax benefit in Great Britain aged under/ over 60: August 2007

	Number
Number of benefit units in receipt of council tax benefit	5,079,080
Number of benefit units in receipt of council tax benefit where claimant aged 60 and over	2,528,950
Number of benefit units in receipt of council tax benefit where claimant aged 59 and under	2,550,140

Notes:
1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest ten.
3. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
4. Council tax benefit totals exclude any second adult rebate cases.
5. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
6. From February 2007, DWP has been collecting more detailed HB/CTB data electronically from local authorities. Over time this will improve the accuracy, timeliness and level of detail available in the published statistics. However, until the new data have been fully quality assured to National Statistics standards, the most recent summary statistics available are for August 2007.
7. Administrative HB/CTB Information contains two age breakdowns on the basis of the age of individual who makes the claim (i) those under the age of 60 and (ii) those aged 60 and over. Therefore 'Pensioners' refers to recipient benefit units where the person who claimed is aged 60 or over: the partner may be under 60.

Source:
Housing benefit and council tax benefit management information system quarterly 100 per cent. caseload stock-count taken in August 2007.

Analysis of the Family Resources survey for 2006-07 suggests that 61 per cent. of pensioners entitled to council tax benefit are not liable to pay income tax.

For people of working age 81 per cent. of families entitled to council tax benefit are not liable to pay income tax.

These estimates refer to Great Britain and are based on survey data and modelling so are subject to sample variation and to other forms of errors.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* pensioners and *(b)* people of working age at each household income level are (i) in receipt of and (ii) eligible for council tax benefit. [261561]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 6 March 2009]:* The table gives the available information on council tax benefit recipients and eligible population by household income bands, for 2006-07 in Great Britain.

Percentage

Banded weekly household income	*(i) Recipients of council tax benefit*	*(ii) Entitled population to council tax benefit*
(a) Pensioners		
Less than £100 a week	2	4
£100 but less than £200	36	38
£200 but less than £300	40	36
£300 but less than £400	16	15
£400 but less than £500	4	4
More than £500	2	4
Total	100	100
(b) Non Pensioners		
Less than £100 a week	4	7
£100 but less than £200	33	26
£200 but less than £300	34	29
£300 but less than £400	16	17
£400 but less than £500	7	10
More than £500	6	10
Total	100	100

Notes:
1. The data refer to household incomes. Note that a household income can be higher than the income of the family receiving council tax benefit, as a household can contain two or more families.
2. The figures are presented as proportions because point estimates of the entitled population are potentially misleading given the presence of sample bias.
3. Council tax benefit totals include second adult rebate cases.
4. Pensioner families are defined as where at least one person aged 60 or more.

Source:
Family Resources Survey Data 2006-07.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the 2009-10 personal allowance for council tax benefit is for *(a)* single people aged under 25 and lone parents aged under 18, *(b)* single people aged 25 to 59 and lone parents aged 18 to 59, *(c)* single people aged 60 or over, *(d)* couples where both partners are aged under 18, *(e)* couples where the older partner is aged 18 to 59 and *(f)* couples where the older partner is aged 60 or over. [261951]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 9 March 2009]:* The information is in the table.

Council tax benefit personal allowance rates for 2009-10

	£
Single people aged under 25	50.95
Lone parent aged under 18	0

Council tax benefit personal allowance rates for 2009-10

	£
Single people aged 25-59 (or any age entitled to main phase ESA)	64.30
Lone parents aged 18-59	64.30
Single person/lone parent aged 60-64	130.00
Single person/lone parent aged 65 or over	150.40
Couples, both partners aged under 18	0
Couples where older partner is aged 18-59	100.95
Couples where one or both are aged 60 or over, but both are aged under 65	198.45
Couples where one or both are aged 65 or over	225.50

Notes:
1. Nil rate quoted as a person must be aged 18 or over in order to be liable for council tax.
2. Rates quoted above do not include any additional allowances which might be applicable, for example in respect of children.

Source:
Following the uprating statement to Parliament made by right hon. Tony McNulty MP on 11 December 2008, DWP issued a press release giving details of the benefit uprating:
www.dwp.gov.uk/mediacentre/pressreleases/2008/dec/NewBenefitRates.pdf
Local authorities were informed of the new rates in HB/CTB Circular A27/2008, a copy of which is at:
www.dwp.gov.uk/housingbenefit/user-communications/circulars/2008/a27-2008.pdf

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the minimum level of *(a)* weekly and *(b)* annual household income is at which a household is no longer eligible for (i) full and (ii) partial full council tax benefit for (A) a single pensioner, (B) a pensioner couple, (C) a working-age single person, (D) a working-age couple, (E) a lone parent with one child and (F) two parents with one child. [262020]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 9 March 2009]:* The level of income at which income extinguishes entitlement to council tax benefit (CTB) will depend upon the liability for council tax as well as the individuals' personal circumstances. For this reason, it is not possible to provide income figures in the way envisaged in the question.

People receiving the guarantee credit element of pension credit, income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance or income-related employment support allowance are deemed to have no income or capital and they receive maximum CTB (subject to any standard deductions for any non-dependant household member).

People not receiving the income-related benefits listed above will have their CTB assessed on the basis of an "applicable amount". The amount is made up of personal allowances and premiums. The personal allowances vary according to age and whether a person is single or one of a married or unmarried couple. The premiums are awarded to those groups identified as having extra needs, for example, long term sick or disabled people and elderly people.

If net income is equal to or is less than the applicable amount, the customer will receive an amount equal to 100 per cent. of their council tax liability less any non-dependant deductions. If net income is more than the applicable amount, the customer will get less CTB. For each pound of extra income over the applicable amount, an adjustment of 20 pence will be made (this is the CTB taper).

In addition, anyone with savings, investments and other capital valued at more than £16,000 will not normally qualify for CTB. Capital of £6,000 or less is ignored. Capital of between £6,000 and £16,000 will be deemed to provide a weekly income of £1 for every £250 (or part thereof) if the person is aged less than 60, or £1 for every £500 (or part thereof) if they are 60 or over.

The following tables set out the applicable amounts, and hence the level at which customers begin to start paying some council tax for the client groups listed in the question.

Pensioners	*Starts to pay some council tax when net income exceeds (£)*
Single person aged 60-64	124.05
Single person aged 65 or over	143.80
Couple, one or both aged 60 or over, but both aged under 65	189.35
Couple, one or both aged 65 or over	215.50

Working age	*Starts to pay some council tax when net income exceeds (£)*
Single person aged under 25	47.95
Single person aged over 25	60.50
Couple	94.95
Single parent with one dependent child aged under one	140.34
Single parent with one dependent child aged one or over	129.84
Couple with one dependent child aged under one	174.79
Couple with one dependent child aged one or over	164.29

Notes:
1. All examples assume no disabilities/no childcare costs/no non-dependants.
2. Rates are for current year (2008-09).

Departmental Aviation

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many journeys *(a)* he and his predecessors and *(b)* his officials made by aeroplane in the course of their duties in each of the last five years. [246672]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate costs. Travel by Ministers and civil servants are undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code respectively.

Departmental Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent by his Department on staff surveys in each of the last five years; and which companies were contracted to carry out the surveys. [260873]

Jonathan Shaw: The costs for DWP surveys in the last five years are as follows:

	£
2004-05	[1]110,000
2005-06	[1]99,595
2006-07	[2]47,041
2007-08	[1]114,535
2008-09	[1]115,245

[1] Full census.
[2] 20 per cent. sample.

The survey supplier for all these surveys was ORC International.

Departmental Training

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has provided voice coaching to any of its employees in the last 12 months. [260635]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department does provide training on voice coaching to our contact centre staff, which includes a one-hour module on voice training and acoustic shock (the shock caused by sudden/loud noises on the telephone) and training on techniques in speaking clearly, explaining well and the importance of voice care. In addition to this, line managers provide coaching on the use of language and vocal tone as part of their normal call monitoring processes.

Incapacity Benefit: North East

Mr. Ronnie Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* Blyth Valley constituency and *(b)* the North East over the age of 60 years are in receipt of incapacity benefit. [258934]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is in the following table.

Number of people claiming incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance aged 60 and over in Blyth Valley parliamentary constituency, north east and north west government office regions—August 2008

	Claimants over 60
Blyth Valley	700
North East	23,340
North West	53,610

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Data available on:
www.nomisweb.co.uk

Source:
The Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Jobcentre Plus

Mike Wood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many local drug jobcentre co-ordinators his Department plans to employ; and what percentage of Jobcentre Plus offices will have a dedicated local drug jobcentre co-ordinator by October 2009; [260858]

(2) at what Civil Service payband local drug jobcentre co-ordinators will be employed; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the job specification for this role. [260859]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 5 March 2009]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions about Jobcentre Plus Drug Co-ordinators including how many will be employed; what percentage of Jobcentre Plus offices they will cover; which grade they will be; and whether a job specification can be made available. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The introduction of Drug Co-ordinators is a joint initiative between Jobcentre Plus, the Department of Health (DH) and the National Treatment Agency (NTA) which has been put in place to support the National Drugs Strategy "Drugs-Protecting Families and Communities". As part of this, the DH has put £9 million into funding the posts from 2009-2011.

As responsibility for health is a devolved matter in Scotland and Wales, the DH can only fund Drug Co-ordinators in England, however, we will continue to work with officials in Scotland and Wales to try to ensure customers in these countries will have similar provision in the future.

We are currently recruiting to fill 63 Drug Co-ordinator posts at Band D (HEO) level. We will have at least one Drug Co-ordinator in place within each of our districts in England and they will be further supported by one of nine Strategic Lead posts (filled at Band F/Grade 7) which will be based within their region.

The decision to put in place district-based Drug Co-ordinators was based on research carried out by Glasgow University in 2006. The research provided information about the number of known problem drug users in specific geographical areas.

We already have eight Drug Co-ordinators in post, and expect that a further 52 will be in place by the end of March, with the remaining three posts being filled during April. We expect that well before October, all of the posts will have been filled and we will have a dedicated Drug Co-ordinator in post within every Jobcentre Plus district in England.

Whilst the Drug Co-ordinator posts are based at district level, part of their job is to ensure that customer-facing advisers within their district are aware of the help and support that we will be able to offer customers.

This means that a customer attending any Jobcentre Plus office in England who declares they are a problem drug user, will be offered a referral to a discussion with a treatment provider.

I have attached a Drug Co-ordinator Job Description at Annex 1, and a copy of this will be placed in the Library.

Jobcentre Plus: Telephone Services

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* staff and *(b)* full-time equivalent staff are employed to answer calls to Jobcentre Plus helplines; and if he will make a statement. [245449]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many staff and full-time equivalent staff are employed to answer calls to Jobcentre Plus helplines. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

As at 30 November 2008 the number of staff employed to answer calls in Contact Centre Directorate was 5,756, and the Full Time Equivalent was 5,210.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households his Department estimates will obtain Government support for unemployed homeowners to pay interest charges on their mortgages. [261648]

Kitty Ussher: We are currently revising our projections for jobseeker's allowance, and within this the number of claimant unemployed who are receiving support for mortgage interest, and updated projections will be published following the Budget.

In November 2008, 5,000 jobseeker's allowance claimants received support for mortgage interest, but we would expect this figure to rise in response to increasing unemployment and recent policy changes making support for mortgage interest available from three months into the claim.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect of recent changes to the support for mortgage interest element of benefits; and how many households he estimates will benefit from the extension of this element of benefits to homeowners who have been unemployed for 13 weeks or more. [261651]

Kitty Ussher: At this time we do not have data to provide actual figures on the number of people who are being helped under the new support for mortgage interest rules.

It should be noted that since these changes were brought in on the 5 January, the impact on new claims would not show up until the end of the 13 week waiting period in early April 2009; although the extension of the reforms to cover those who have already served a waiting period over 13 weeks, and the six-month freeze of the standard interest rate, will mean that customers have started benefiting already.

We are currently revising our caseload and expenditure projections for jobseeker's allowance, and within this the number of claimant unemployed who are receiving support for mortgage interest. Updated projections will be published following the Budget.

In November 2008, 5,000 jobseeker's allowance claimants received support for mortgage interest, but we would expect this figure to rise in response to increasing unemployment and recent policy changes making support for mortgage interest available from three months into the claim.

Nuclear Power Stations

Dr. Howells: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what factors underlie the length of time scheduled for generic design assessment work on the three nuclear reactor designs identified as suitable for construction in the UK; [260248]

(2) if he will estimate the additional *(a)* staff and *(b)* resources required to enable the Health and Safety Executive and the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate to complete the generic design assessment work on the three nuclear reactor designs for future construction in the UK in half the time presently scheduled. [260249]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I have been asked to reply.

The factors affecting the length of time that generic design assessment will take are given at paragraph 24 of the joint guidance "New Nuclear Power Stations, Generic Design Assessment—A guide to the regulatory process"—published by HSE and the Environment Agency in August 2008. These include:

The content, quality and timeliness of the submissions;

The completeness of the design;

The introduction of design changes;

The significance of assessment issues arising;

The responsiveness of requesting parties to issues and questions;

The availability of resources to the regulators;

The ability to make best use of information from overseas nuclear regulators;

The number of designs being assessed in parallel; and

The experience of the regulators with similar reactor designs.

Given that resource is only one of these factors, the HSE does not believe that it is feasible for its Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) to complete GDA in half the time presently scheduled, irrespective of the numbers of staff or resources available.

Dr. Howells: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress has been made on generic design assessment work proceeding on the *(a)* AP100, *(b)* economic simplified boiling water and *(c)* UK EPR designs for nuclear reactors; and if he will make a statement. [260335]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I have been asked to reply.

The nuclear regulators have completed GDA Steps 1 and 2 for four reactor designs (AECL's ACR1000, Areva's European Pressurised Water Reactor (EPR), GE-Hitachi's ESBWR and Toshiba-Westinghouse's AP1000) and a series of reports were published on the Health and Safety Executive's website in March 2008.

ACR-1000 and ESBWR have been, respectively, withdrawn and suspended from the GDA process at the request of the vendors.

HSE's Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) is currently part-way through step 3 of a four step assessment process. NII aims to publish its step 3 findings in November 2009 and its step 4 findings in June 2011.

The Environment Agency (EA) is also part way through its detailed assessment process. EA aim to publicly consult on their initial findings in 2010 and publish their final reports by June 2011.

Pension Protection Fund

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for the future funding of the Pension Protection Fund; and if he will make a statement. [261349]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The funding of the Pension Protection Fund is a matter for the Board of the Pension Protection Fund, an independent statutory corporation. The PPF is funded through a pension protection levy that is charged to all eligible defined-benefit occupational pension schemes, assets from schemes that transfer in to the PPF and investment returns. The Board made a commitment in August 2007 to collect £675 million a

year for the next three years, indexed to earnings, so long as there was no significant change in risk. The Board intends to collect £700 million in 2009-10, keeping to that commitment. A consultation on the future development of the pension protection levy for 2011-12 and beyond concluded on 13 February 2009 and the Board is currently considering the responses received.

Ms Gisela Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the compatibility with the European Convention on Human Rights of the Pension Protection Fund cap and its provisions relating to reductions for early retirement. [260980]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 5 March 2009]:* Our assessment is that the Pension Protection Fund (PPF) cap and its provisions relating to early retirement are consistent with ECHR. It ensures consistent treatment, based on age, relative to the qualifying insolvency event, (the trigger for entry to the PPF). It also ensures that people who take early retirement before the insolvency event are not placed in a more beneficial position than people who stay in employment.

Pensioners

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment his Department has made of the effect of increases in living costs on pensioners; and what steps his Department is taking to assist pensioners affected by such increases. [261965]

Ms Rosie Winterton: There is a statutory requirement to review all social security benefits each year and to consider whether they have retained their value in relation to the general level of prices. (The standard minimum guarantee in pension credit must be reviewed against the general level of earnings). A further requirement calls for certain benefits, including the state pension, to be up-rated at least in line with the increase in prices from April of the following year.

Following the most recent review, that took place in the autumn of last year, the rate of full basic state pension that will apply from this April will be £95.25. This amounts to an increase in the current rate of £4.55, which is in line with inflation as measured last September, when the Retail Prices Index was 5 per cent. This increase, against a backdrop of falling inflation, is in line with the highest increase in inflation last year and the biggest increase in the state pension since 2001. The increase in the standard minimum guarantee in pension credit to £130 for single pensioners (£198.45 for pensioner couples) from April more than keeps pace with earnings and represents the highest up-lift since it was introduced in 2003.

Furthermore, in order to provide direct financial support through the economic downturn pensioners have also received additional winter fuel payments this year that have increased the payments to £250 for eligible households with someone aged 60 to 79 and £400 for eligible households with someone aged over 80. In addition, for this year the Department has increased the Christmas bonus from £10 to £70 and increased the cold weather payment from £8.50 to £25.

Pensions: Forecasts

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many requests for pension forecasts the Pension Service has received in each of the last 12 months; how many and what proportion of those forecasts were set *(a)* within 10 days, *(b)* between 10 and 20 days, *(c)* between 20 and 30 days, *(d)* between one and two months and *(e)* two months and longer of receipt of the request; and if he will make a statement. [259082]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is not available to enable the separation of the number of requests for Individual Pension Forecasts from the total number of inquiries received via the Pension Forecasting IT service. Therefore the information given relates to the total number of forecasts issued.

The number of customers who have been issued with an Individual Pension Forecast via the Pensions Forecasting IT system in the last 12 months is in the following table.

	Within 10 days		*Between 10 and 19 days*		*Between 20 and 30 days*		*Between one and two months*		*Over two months*		*Total*	
	No.	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*	*No.*	*%*
2008												
February	23,484	86.08	1,396	5.12	660	2.42	306	1.12	1,437	5.27	27,283	100
March	21,109	87.10	627	2.59	768	3.17	226	0.93	1,505	6.21	24,235	100
April	21,838	87.17	514	2.05	778	3.11	278	1.11	1,643	6.56	25,051	100
May	15,931	88.03	183	1.01	681	3.76	128	0.71	1,174	6.49	18,097	100
June	15,868	88.45	143	0.80	259	1.44	474	2.64	1,197	6.67	17,941	100
July	17,656	86.83	399	1.96	561	2.76	519	2.55	1,199	5.90	20,334	100
August	20,599	88.17	690	2.95	755	3.23	525	2.25	793	3.39	23,362	100
September	44,458	94.36	1,401	2.97	706	1.50	378	0.80	173	0.37	47,116	100
October	51,550	93.61	1,507	2.74	1,256	2.28	568	1.03	186	0.34	55,067	100
November	54,177	94.65	1,551	2.71	921	1.61	486	0.85	105	0.18	57,240	100
December	41,330	96.53	666	1.56	529	1.24	261	0.61	31	0.07	42,817	100
2009												
January	65,057	97.05	981	1.46	858	1.28	70	0.10	n/a	n/a	66,966	100

The number of customers who received an Individual Pension Forecast from the e-service Real Time Pension Forecasting system is in the following table. All forecasts are produced in real time.

Month	Number of forecasts issued
2008	
February	5,318
March	5,883
April	6,330
May	4,395
June	2,957
July	26,353
August	25,453
September	27,759
October	31,061
November	35,490
December	23,731
2009	
January	35,264
Total	230,014

PDCS also provided state pension information to pension providers to enable 1,093,986 Combined Pension forecasts to be produced in the period September 2008 to January 2009.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when his Department resumed sending out pension forecasts in response to requests from people who reach pension age after 6 April 2010; how many *(a)* requests have been received and *(b)* forecasts have been sent since the resumption; and if he will make a statement. [259681]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department offers three channels for pensions forecasts: e-service, telephone, and post.

The real-time e-service resumed on 30 June 2008. This system does not provide information on the age of the customers who have requested a forecast, and therefore the Department is unable to tell how many of the users of the service reach pension age on or after 6 April 2010.

For customers who reach state pension age on or after 6 April 2010, the Pension Forecast service resumed on 26 August 2008 for requests made by telephone or post to the Pension Forecasting IT service. 202,761 customers received a state pension forecast between 26 August 2008 and close of business on 24 February 2009.

Repossession Orders

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make it his policy to amend the rules governing eligibility for assistance with mortgage interest payment to include circumstances where the redundancy of one family member exposes the family to the risk of mortgage payment default and repossession; and if he will make a statement. [262551]

Kitty Ussher: Support for mortgage interest is available to those homeowners who qualify for one of the income-related benefits, income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance, income-related employment and support allowance or pension credit. It is an integral component of those benefits. Couples are treated as a single unit in these benefits and if one member of a couple is in remunerative work of 24-hours or more, or has income which exceeds their entitlement, then they cannot receive the benefit. Only those couples who are not in remunerative work and who meet the other qualifying conditions of the benefit can receive support for mortgage interest. This is intended to ensure that resources are directed to where they are most needed and there are no plans to change this policy.

Support for mortgage interest is not the only form of help for homeowners in difficulty paying their mortgages. For example, the Government's Mortgage Rescue scheme provides £200 million to support up to 6,000 of the most vulnerable homeowners facing repossession to remain in their home. The Homeowner Mortgage Support scheme, which we expect to be open for business with the first lenders in April, will help ensure hard working people, including couples, who suffer a temporary loss of income can stay in their home. Both schemes are being led by Communities and Local Government.

Social Fund

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the budget of the Social Fund for crisis loans was in each of the last 12 years. [260865]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 5 March 2009]:* There is no separate budget for crisis loans, but rather a combined loans budget for both crisis loans and budgeting loans. The following table gives the final gross loans budget and crisis loan gross expenditure for each of the last 12 years.

Social fund loans in Great Britain

£ million

	Final gross loans budget	Crisis loan gross expenditure
1997-98	397.5	54.3
1998-99	404.9	58.9
1999-2000	457.9	61.5
2000-01	524.6	65.3
2001-02	547.7	74.9
2002-03	548.9	84.6
2003-04	578.0	85.1
2004-05	585.0	81.9
2005-06	609.0	86.4
2006-07	700.0	97.9
2007-08	642.0	121.2
2008-09	624.0	[1]132.6

[1] To 11 January.

Source:

Annual reports by the Secretary of State for Social Security/Work and Pensions on the Social Fund (with greater accuracy for Crisis Loan expenditure than in the annual reports for the first three years obtained from the DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System).

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of crisis loan applications resulted in an award being made in each of the last 12 years. [260864]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 5 March 2009]:* The available information is given in the table.

Crisis loan applications for Great Britain

	Percentage of applications resulting in an initial award
1997-98	73.9
1998-99	76.2
1999-2000	72.5
2000-01	72.0
2001-02	74.6
2002-03	76.3
2003-04	73.9
2004-05	75.1
2005-06	74.5
2006-07	74.4
2007-08	68.5
April 2008 to January 2009	67.8

Notes:
1. Figures do not include awards made after review.
2. Percentages are based on applications processed in each year, not on applications received in each year.

Source:
Annual reports by the Secretary of State for Social Security/Work and Pensions on the Social Fund (with greater accuracy than in the annual reports for the first three years obtained from the DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System or departmental records).

Social Fund: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Social Fund applications by residents in the London Borough of Bexley were *(a)* successful and *(b)* unsuccessful in each of the last five years; and how much was paid to such residents from the fund in each of those years. [261424]

Kitty Usher: The information requested is not available. Social Fund data are not held by London borough, but by Jobcentre Plus Social Fund budget area (or, before such budget areas were used for the administration of the Social Fund, by Jobcentre Plus district, and, prior to that, by Social Fund district). Since May 2002, there have been several changes to the boundaries of administrative areas. As a result, data which can be compared across time are available for all Jobcentre Plus Social Fund budget areas from September 2006 only.

Social Security Benefits: Lone Parents

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what his Department's target is for the number of visits to be made by compliance officers to lone parents who have been sanctioned for failing to attend a work-focused interview; and if he will make a statement; [259264]

(2) how many and what proportion of lone parents under benefits sanctions for failing to attend a work-focused interview have been visited by a compliance officer in each month since such interviews became compulsory; and if he will make a statement. [259265]

(3) if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's standard letter issued to lone parents claiming income support after they have failed to attend a work-focused interview and failed to show good cause. [259267]

Kitty Usher: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Widowed Parents Allowance

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have made a late claim for *(a)* widowed parents allowance and *(b)* bereavement allowance in each of the last five years; how many people claiming bereavement allowance have been refused on the grounds that the claim was submitted after more than 12 months from the death of their partner in the last five years; and what estimate he has made of the proportion of those eligible for bereavement benefits to have claimed them in the last five years. [259765]

Kitty Usher: The information is not available.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Departmental Art Works

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which works of art from the Government Art Collection each Minister in his Department has selected for display in a private office. [259432]

Mr. Simon: The following works of art from the Government Art Collection are displayed in Lord Drayson's private office:

Daphne Reynolds—'The Watchers';

John Piper—'St James the Less, Westminster';

David Bomberg—'London River'.

The following works of art from the Government Art Collection are displayed in Siôn Simon's private office:

Howard Hodgkin—'Blood';

Howard Hodgkin—'Sand'.

Other Ministers in this Department do not have works of art from the Government Art Collection displayed in their private offices.

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much expenditure was incurred in respect of overseas visits which *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers in his Department and *(c)* his Department's senior officials undertook in 2008. [262178]

Mr. Simon: Since 1999, the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the financial year 2007-08 was published on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 102WS, and for the first time included details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All travel by Ministers is undertaken in accordance with the 'Ministerial Code'. Information going beyond what is already published can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Foreign Students: USA

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what support his Department *(a)* offers and *(b)* plans to offer to help cover the travel costs of British students who take a term of study in the United States. [262708]

Mr. Lammy: English-domiciled students studying in the UK who wish to take up a term of study of their course in the United States may be eligible to receive a grant to help cover the related travel costs. To qualify for the grant the student must be attending the overseas university or college for at least half the length of an academic quarter, which normally corresponds to a term. The grant meets the costs of:

travel within and outside the UK in order to attend the university or college

medical insurance for treatment provided outside the United Kingdom

visas required to attend the overseas institution

medical costs incurred to meet a mandatory condition of entry into a country (e.g. vaccination costs).

The grant is subject to an income assessment and the first £295 of travel costs incurred is not covered by the grant.

DIUS has responsibility for higher education in England only. The devolved administrations have responsibility for it in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Higher Education

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what plans he has to re-introduce polytechnic colleges into the higher education system. [262292]

Mr. Lammy: There are no plans to reintroduce polytechnic colleges into the higher education system. Publicly funded degrees should offer the range and balance of qualifications which students and the wider economy require in the future and to do this the higher education system may need to ensure that there are more opportunities provided to individuals to enter by vocational routes. Although some institutions will meet a greater proportion of this need than others, this does not mean the re-establishment of the polytechnic divide.

Higher Education: Anti-Semitism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department is taking to reduce levels of anti-Semitism in universities; and if he will make a statement. [263286]

Mr. Lammy: This Government deplore acts of racial or religious intolerance and we are committed to tackling anti-Semitism and any form of racial intolerance. Higher education institutions have the primary responsibility for ensuring that their students are not subject to threatening or abusive behaviour on campus and addressing any complaints received.

We are committed to encouraging higher education institutions to ensure that discrimination has no place in any of their policies or practices and to act swiftly when incidents or complaints are brought to their attention. The Department is currently in the process of establishing a dedicated sub-group to the Cross Government Working Group against anti-Semitism to facilitate discussions between the Jewish community and higher education stakeholders.

Higher Education: Research

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department is taking to support universities whose research has been judged as excellent and of national importance. [261977]

Mr. Lammy: The Department supports excellent research in universities through the dual support system of institutional funding through the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and project-based funding through the Research Councils. The Department's grant letter to HEFCE asked them

"to continue to recognise and reward the highest levels of research excellence wherever it is found".

The recent research assessment exercise (RAE), published in December last year demonstrates the world-class performance of university research in the UK: 54 per cent. of work was found to be of world-leading quality or internationally excellent. The RAE results drive institutional funding for research and HEFCE announced funding allocations on 5 March.

Research: Small Businesses

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 25 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 775W, on research: small businesses, which other Government departments are participating in the Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI); and whether the revised SBRI format will have been extended to each participating department by April 2009. [260654]

Mr. Lammy: The SBRI is a mechanism by which Government Departments can seek to encourage the business community to develop innovative solutions to meet the Department's needs. All Departments are eligible to participate, and, following the successful outcome of the pilot programme, I encourage all those with appropriate research and development needs to consider using this mechanism.

Lord Drayson and Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury, Angela Eagle, wrote to ministerial colleagues on 5 November inviting participation in the scheme. The Technology Strategy Board, which manages the SBRI programme, has over the last year engaged with all central departments, to seek to identify suitable opportunities for the use of SBRI. As stated in my answer of 25 February, a £10 million competition with the Department for Communities and Local Government will be launched in March, and the Ministry of Defence, the Department of Health, and the Department for Transport also have advanced plans for SBRI competitions in 2009. The TSB is continuing to work with other Departments to identify further cases where the Departments could benefit from making use of SBRI to meet their technology development needs.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has for the funding of *(a)* Wave 5 and *(b)* subsequent waves of

the Building Schools for the Future programme; and what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the economic downturn on the budgets for those waves of the programme. [262742]

Jim Knight: We remain fully committed to the BSF programme and I currently expect funding for Building Schools for the Future (BSF) for both waves 5 and 6 projects to be determined in the same way as for previous waves, when local authorities receive approval of the business case for their project.

The Department is continuing to monitor the impact of the current economic conditions on capital programmes such as BSF, and is working with Partnerships for Schools and HM Treasury to ensure the programme moves forward as planned. On 3 March 2009, my right hon. Friend the Chief Secretary to the Treasury announced Government action to safeguard capital infrastructure investment in projects being delivered through the private finance initiative.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many apprenticeship places have been created by the Building Schools for the Future Programme. [261917]

Jim Knight: DCSF does not hold information on apprenticeship places that have been created by the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. However, DCSF has responded to the pre-Budget report in November which announced that Government Departments and their Agencies committed that whenever they let a new construction contract they will consider making it a requirement that successful contractors have apprentices as a proportion of the project workforce. DCSF announced on 23 February 2009 that all construction companies winning contracts for the Building Schools for the Future programme will be required to have formal training programmes—creating up to an extra 1,000 apprenticeship places from June 2009—including posts in construction, information technology and facilities management.

Partnerships for schools is putting in place arrangements for monitoring the numbers of apprenticeships and training places in existing and new projects.

Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service: Standards

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make it his policy to review for benchmarking purposes the methods used by Ofsted in conducting inspections of the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service in each region. [258203]

Beverley Hughes: Matters concerning the review of inspection methodology are for Ofsted rather than the Department. In September 2008, Ofsted published a consultation document, "Inspection of Children and Court Advisory Support Services (CAFCASS) 2009-12."

Ofsted is currently evaluating the responses to the consultation and its work to pilot the new arrangements. It is intended that a new framework for the inspection of CAFCASS will be implemented from April 2009.

Children In Care

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils with special educational needs have been placed in residential care *(a)* inside and *(b)* outside their local authority area in each of the last 10 years. [258345]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Information requested is not collected centrally by the Department.

Children: Day Care

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of *(a)* two, *(b)* three and *(c)* four year olds whose parents use the free entitlement to child care receive the maximum number of free hours available. [260053]

Beverley Hughes: Virtually all four year olds and 95 per cent. of three year olds take up some of their free early education entitlement. At present, pupils in the maintained sector are counted only as "full time" or "part time", but from this summer, data will be collected via the School Census on the hours of free entitlement taken.

An estimate from the Childcare and Early Years Parents survey in 2007 showed that of the eligible three and four year olds benefiting from the free entitlement, nearly three-quarters (73 per cent.) had used 12-hours or more of their entitlement.

The first phase of the free entitlement for two year olds was for 7.5-hours per week in 32 local authorities which reached approximately 13,500 children between 2006-08. From April 2009, these local authorities, along with a further 31, will move to deliver up to 15-hours a week over 38-weeks a year. From September 2009 all remaining local authorities will begin delivering up to 10-hours a week, over 38-weeks a year. The different number of hours that will be delivered is a deliberate step to allow us to evaluate a range of approaches.

The latest figures on early education places for three and four year olds in England were published in Statistical First Release (SFR) 12/2008 "Provision for children under five years of age in England: January 2008", available on my Department's website:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000790/index.shtml

Children: Protection

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the statement of 20 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 376, on safeguarding children, who supplied him with the professional advice he was given regarding the publication of the serious case review. [247864]

Beverley Hughes: The advice was provided by senior officials.

Departmental Absenteeism

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff of his Department were recorded absent for non-medical reasons on *(a)* 2 February 2009 and *(b)* 3 February 2009; what estimate he has made of the (i) cost to his Department and (ii) number of working hours lost due to such absence; and what guidance his Department issued to staff in respect of absence on these days. [260471]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department issued guidance to staff on the days in question, advising them to make reasonable efforts to come into work and, if this was not possible, to work from home using, for example, the Department's remote access. Staff were also told to also take account of local advice in the light of weather conditions and travel arrangements.

Absences were handled locally by managers and information was not collected centrally on those unable to work. Therefore, the information on staff numbers, costs and working hours lost could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Art Works

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which works of art from the Government Art Collection each Minister in his Department has selected for display in a private office. [259438]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The three works of art from the Government Art Collection selected for display in the Department's Private Office are all located in the Secretary of State's Office.

Their titles are:

An Accurate Map of the West Riding of Yorkshire;

A Field Near Vernham Dene; and

The New Houses of Parliament.

Departmental Scientists

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his Department's budget for scientific advice and research is in 2008-09; for what purposes the equivalent budget for 2007-08 was used; and how many people employed in his Department have a science or engineering degree. [260773]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The DCSF does not commission scientific research and advice. We do commission social and economic research and analysis in order to provide evidence to support policy-making activity across the full range of the Department's responsibilities according to need. Our current forecast is that we will spend £31 million on social and economic research and analysis in 2008-09. In 2007-08, the figure was £27 million. We do not collect information on staff with a science or engineering degree centrally.

Departmental Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and its predecessor spent on staff surveys in each of the last five years; and which company was contracted to conduct each such survey. [259681]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In the last five years the Department (and the former Department for Education and Skills) has spent £94,363 on staff surveys. All surveys in the period were delivered by ORC International Ltd.

	Cost (£)
2005-06	15,686
2006-07	[1]0
2007-08	42,137
2008-09	36,540

[1] No staff survey held.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his Department's policy is on holding departmental away days outside his Department's buildings. [262025]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department believes that away days can be beneficial and necessary for staff development, team building and planning to help deliver the Children's Plan.

The organisation of away days outside the Department's buildings will be based on sound planning and, where accommodation costs and other charges are involved, our policies on appropriateness and value for money.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people *(a)* are eligible for and *(b)* are claiming education maintenance allowance in West Lancashire constituency. [261967]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Mark Haysom the LSC's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member for West Lancashire with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Education: Young Offender Institutions

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment Ofsted has made of standards of education in the juvenile secure estate in the last five years. [259292]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 4 March 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for reply.

From 1998 to March 2007, Ofsted inspected standards in education and training in the juvenile estate with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons. From 1996 to April 2004, Ofsted inspected standards in education and training at local authority secure children's homes and secure training centres with the Social Services Inspectorate; and from April 2004 to March 2007, it did so with the Commission for Social Care Inspection. Since April 2007, Ofsted has had sole responsibility for the inspection of

secure children's homes and secure training centres. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons maintains its lead responsibility for the prison estate.

Prior to April 2007, Ofsted did not publish its own reports on juvenile estate establishments, including secure children's homes and secure training centres, but contributed to the report of the lead inspectorate. Since April 2007, Ofsted has published reports on secure children's homes and secure training centres. Please note that there have only been a small number of inspections annually.

Ofsted provides an annual summary of its assessment of this provision in Her Majesty's Chief Inspectors' Annual Reports. As Ofsted did not publish any of its own reports until 2007, the Annual Reports are the only continuous and comparative form of assessment relating to this area of provision over the past five years.

For the purposes of the following reports, the term 'secure settings' refers to secure children's homes and secure training centres accommodating children and young people under 18 years of age, and other establishments accommodating Juvenile/Young People offenders.

The following excerpts are taken from the Annual Reports of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools 2004/05 and 2005/06, and Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services, and Skills for 2006/07 and 2007/08.

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools Annual Report 2004/05

The quality of education and care: Provision for children and young people in secure settings

Main Findings

Provision across the range of secure settings and within types of setting varies widely. Some young people are well served; others, already disadvantaged, have a poor deal which does little to help them to improve their life chances. Establishments vary, for example, in the extent of specialist teaching facilities and resources and the range of options available to them. Generally, provision for students to work towards qualifications at level 2 and above is limited.

Out of 10 young offender institutions inspected, two were judged to be very good, six satisfactory and two unsatisfactory. The provision for juveniles (15-17 year-olds) was better than that for young offenders (18-21 year-olds) mainly because they benefited from additional resources for this age group from the Youth Justice Board. The appointment of special educational needs coordinators and learning support assistants has improved initial assessment, the targeting and quality of one-to-one support and the quality of pastoral care for juveniles.

The establishments judged to be very good featured: very good leadership; effective behaviour management, support and guidance; rigorous monitoring of attendance; and effective arrangements for young people unable or unwilling to attend classes. In the poorer establishments, much of the teaching lacked challenge; education, training and residential activities were poorly integrated and accreditation rates were low.

Three of the seven local authority children's homes inspected were good or better; two were satisfactory, but two were unsatisfactory. In the best, there was a strong emphasis on assessing and monitoring students' progress and liaison and support from the local authority were excellent. By contrast, insufficient emphasis on achievement, inadequate quality assurance arrangements and weak links between education and care staff characterised unsatisfactory practice.

Two of the three secure training centres inspected were very good. In these, there were wide opportunities for accreditation, the learning environment was attractive and provision well resourced. By contrast, two detention and immigration centres inspected were poorly resourced and accommodation in one was cramped. Despite these difficulties, teacher-pupil relationships in the centres were good. Pupils were well-behaved, keen to learn and supported each other, particularly in relation to resolving language difficulties.

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools Annual Report 2005/06

The quality of education and care: Provision for young people in secure settings

Main Findings

Overall, standards across the range of secure settings remain too variable and the curriculum offered is often too narrow to meet the needs of the young people. Of 13 institutions inspected, two secure children's homes and one young offender institution are inadequate.

Only one establishment, a secure training centre, is very good and two secure children's homes and one young offender institution are good. There has been an improvement, however, in the management of the young people's behaviour and it is satisfactory overall in the settings inspected. The more effective institutions are successful in meeting the needs of a wide range of young people, many of whom have had little or no experience of educational success. A minority of settings have developed an appropriate range of vocational and academic courses. In these institutions, young people enjoy their education and often make good progress; many experience success for the first time in their lives. However, levels of accreditation remain low in too many institutions and opportunities for progression to more advanced courses are limited. This is particularly pertinent for young people aged 16 and over in young offender institutions. More able young people are often working below their capabilities and few gain GCSE qualifications.

The range of vocational courses is narrow in too many institutions, restricting opportunities for young people to acquire the skills that will help them to gain employment or access to further training on their release from custody. Teaching of the basic skills of literacy and numeracy is often poor. Lessons fail to motivate or engage young people. In the more effective institutions, literacy and numeracy are linked successfully to vocational work and their life experiences.

The needs of young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities are not always met appropriately. In the better settings, teaching is lively and engaging. Young people are given interesting and challenging tasks that they enjoy. They respond well to good teaching, make sound progress and are justifiably proud of their achievements. The collection of information about the young people's achievements, progress and attendance is improving and is now available to support teaching staff more effectively. However, this information is used effectively in only a small number of institutions. Young people's individual learning plans are not used successfully to plan their work or to monitor their progress.

The more successful settings draw on a variety of resources and external partners to develop creative and interesting educational experiences for young people. External agencies are often effective in raising the young people's aspirations. Most institutions are successful in making the environment as attractive as possible, often in very difficult circumstances. Rewards and incentives are used effectively to motivate young people, but only in a minority of institutions.

In the settings inspected, the management of poor and inappropriate behaviour has improved in recent years and is satisfactory overall. It is good in institutions where the behaviour policy is clearly understood and consistently applied. Relationships between prison and education staff in young offender institutions are generally good. Some aspects of prison life, however, continue to have a negative effect on teaching and learning. For example, movement from residential to education units is often delayed, adversely affecting both punctuality and young people's learning. There are too few opportunities for young people to share their opinions about the education and training they receive.

Arrangements for the care and progress of young people about to leave custody are not good enough. Insufficient attention is paid to preparing them for their return to the community. Careers education and guidance are often poor. The lack of appropriate education and training for these young people once they are released is a real concern.

In most of the settings inspected there has been steady improvement in leadership and management. Senior managers are now more focused on improving the quality of provision. Self-assessment and the rigour of lesson observations have improved.

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills Annual Report 2006-07

Quality and Standards: Educational provision for young people in secure settings

The provision for young people with learning difficulties or disabilities is not always matched to their needs. Staff do not

make effective use of individual learning plans in considering the next steps in learning or in tracking the progress of the young people.

The more effective institutions work with a range of external partners to plan challenging and imaginative programmes for learners and to raise their ambitions for the future. Staff in most institutions overcome considerable difficulties to make the accommodation as pleasant as possible through, for example, the imaginative use of learners' artwork. Incentives are generally used well to encourage the young people.

Increasingly, planned educational provision within secure children's homes is contributing to the five outcomes of the Every Child Matters legislation, especially to 'be healthy', with many units aspiring to the Healthy Schools initiative. However, little focus is given to the Every Child Matters agenda for children and young people in young offender institutions. Limited opportunities for release on temporary licence severely inhibit the preparation of young people to gain employment and so to achieve economic well-being on their return to the community.

The management of unacceptable behaviour has improved further in the institutions inspected. Behaviour is good in institutions where the behaviour policy is understood clearly and applied consistently. In young offender institutions, there has been a marked reduction in the number of young people being returned to residential wings from education for poor behaviour. Relationships between prison and residential care staff and education staff across the range of secure accommodation are generally good. Progress in making sure that education and training are given priority within settings is variable.

Too often, security issues inhibit access to appropriate provision for children and young people. There remain some aspects of institutional life which have an adverse effect on the quality of educational provision. For example, moving the young people from residential accommodation to teaching areas often takes too long so that they arrive late and learning time is lost.

The provision for young people about to return to the outside world remains uneven in quality. Not enough is done to help them prepare for their release and there are not enough opportunities for them to access vocational learning or to develop independent living skills. Links between education and resettlement departments are often tenuous. The quality of careers guidance and education is often inadequate. The failure to provide suitable education and training to young people for the community element of their sentences, or upon release, remains a significant concern.

The quality of leadership and management has improved in most of the secure estates inspected. Senior managers now place more emphasis on improving the quality of provision, but in some settings this has not yet resulted in improved outcomes. There is greater rigour in institutional self-assessment and in the evaluation of teaching and learning, but there is still some overestimation of effectiveness.

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills Annual Report 2007/08

Quality and Standards: Educational provision for children and young people in secure settings

Provision of education and training in the four secure training centres was inspected during 2007/08. Of these, education and training are outstanding in one, good in two and satisfactory in the fourth. There were full inspections of seven secure children's homes, of which one is outstanding, three are good and three are satisfactory. There were two full inspections of young offender institutions holding children; both of these institutions are satisfactory.

The improvements reported in last year's Annual Report have been strengthened, especially in the behaviour of children and young people. In most institutions, leadership and management are successful in supporting children's personal and social development. Education in the secure children's homes inspected makes a strong contribution to the Every Child Matters outcomes, with children understanding and following healthy lifestyles and knowing how to stay safe.

On arrival in secure institutions, many children and young people have poor attitudes to learning and experiences of it; indeed, many are unused to participating in structured education of any kind. Behaviour is managed more successfully than in the past and improves quickly. Most behaviour is now good in the institutions inspected. This is achieved most effectively where care staff and teachers collaborate and manage behaviour consistently.

Initial assessment of children's and young people's levels of literacy and numeracy is well established and effective. Nearly all children and young people enter institutions with levels of literacy and numeracy well below those found nationally for their ages. There has been an appropriate emphasis on improving basic skills and children make very good progress when opportunities for improving literacy and numeracy are linked to subjects across the curriculum. Most young people leave custody with some form of accreditation in these essential skills and, more generally, levels of accreditation are now at least satisfactory in most of the institutions inspected.

Teaching and learning are generally best in vocational and practical subjects, where they are consistently at least satisfactory. In the best classes, teachers have high expectations of learners and plan interesting and varied activities. Less successful lessons provide insufficient challenge, the pace is too slow and young people are bored and lose concentration.

The range of vocational provision is too often narrow. Most children and young people have too few opportunities to gain work-related skills that will help them move on to further education, employment or additional training on release. Evening enrichment activities are available in most institutions and, in some cases, the skills gained by young people are accredited through external qualifications. Often, these activities add significantly to their enjoyment of education.

Guidance and support are generally strengths of the sector. Most institutions have effective initial assessment procedures that identify any additional support needs quickly, although this information is not always used well to inform teaching and learning. Children and young people are helped to settle in quickly through good induction procedures. Target-setting and monitoring of progress have improved; they are now generally good and, in a few cases, outstanding. Some secure children's homes have developed a system of weekly tutorials which are used well to review progress. Teaching assistants generally provide effective support but, in a few cases, they are not appropriately qualified and are unsure of their role.

The improvements seen in the last two years in leadership and management are now having a positive impact, especially in the areas of managing behaviour and in guidance and support. Institutions are now producing more evaluative self-assessment reports. Frequently, managers identify the key weaknesses and take decisive action that improves outcomes for young people. Lesson observations by managers are now well established and, in most cases, this has contributed to improvements in teaching and learning. Centres use data more effectively to measure learners' progress and to set challenging targets. Increasingly, institutions are developing procedures to seek the views of the young people and staff, but this is not consistent across the sector. Relationships between care and education staff are generally good, and communication between groups of staff has improved significantly. There is great variation in the quality of resources, especially in terms of accommodation and facilities.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

GCE A-Level: Disadvantaged

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what A level subjects were taken by each pupil eligible for free schools meals who achieved three A grades at A level in the last year for which data are available. [250156]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: This information would be identifiable and so can not be given out.

GCSE

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of pupils gained five A* to B grades at GCSE in 2008. [251124]

Jim Knight: In 2008, 209,961 (32.2 per cent.) pupils at the end of key stage 4 in all schools in England, achieved five or more A* to B grades at GCSE.

GCSE: North Yorkshire

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of eligible pupils passed GCSEs in *(a)* English and *(b)* mathematics, at grades (i) A* and (ii) A to C in Vale of York constituency in each year since 1997. [240562]

Jim Knight: The requested information on the percentage of eligible pupils in Vale of York constituency achieving grades A* and A-C in English and mathematics is given in the following table.

	English		*Maths*	
	*A**	*A-C*	*A**	*A-C*
2007	2.5	62.5	3.5	56.0
2006	3.9	55.0	4.4	50.4
2005	2.8	56.6	2.9	53.0
2004	2.8	55.3	2.4	46.5
2003	3.9	56.0	0.9	47.6
2002	2.5	57.4	2.4	50.1
2001	2.6	56.3	1.7	51.7
2000	2.5	54.3	2.0	48.3
1999	2.8	55.9	1.0	46.4
1998	3.1	54.4	1.4	43.6
1997	1.5	51.7	2.1	47.2

Notes:
1. Data from 1997 to 2004 are based on 15-year-old pupils at the start of the academic year. The 2005 to 2007 figure is based on pupils at the end of KS4.
2. Data from 2004 to 2007 include equivalents

GCSEs: Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of GCSE students in schools in West Lancashire constituency achieved five or more A* to C grades including English and mathematics in 2008. [261969]

Jim Knight: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Percentage of pupils[1] achieving five or more A to C grades including English and Mathematics at GCSE and equivalent, 2008[2]*

	Percentage
West Lancashire parliamentary constituency[3]	42.1
Lancashire local authority	50.8
England[4]	47.6

[1] Figures are based on pupils at the end of key stage 4.
[2] Figures are based on revised data.
[3] Pupils attending maintained schools located in West Lancashire constituency.
[4] Figure includes all schools.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the causes of the disparity in GCSE attainment between boys and girls. [259594]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Girls have out-performed boys since GCSE examinations were introduced in 1988. In 2008 69.9 per cent. of girls and 60.9 per cent. of boys achieved 5+ 'A*-C grade GCSEs. Girls are ahead of boys at all stages of education. The gap in England has been broadly stable over two decades, and is in line with that in other OECD countries.

The reasons are complex but appear mainly related to differences of biology, maturation, and attitudes to learning and reading at different ages. The Department's 2007 research paper "Gender and education: the evidence on pupils in England", of which there is a copy in the Library of the House, sets out the research evidence.

Two points should be noted: first, boys' GCSE attainment has improved sharply over the past decade, broadly keeping pace with that of girls; second, gender gaps can be minimised by good teaching practice and by the encouragement of reading, ensuring that pupils of both genders make good progress.

Through its "Gender Agenda" programme the Department has been leading a programme of action research activities designed to identify and spread good practice in raising boys' motivation and attainment. An interim report has been published and a final report will be made available at the end of the programme.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Totnes of 21 January 2009 on funding for a new school building at Dartmouth Community college. [262574]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 10 March 2009]:* The Department's correspondence handling system shows no record of the letter in question. If the hon. Member forwards a copy of the letter to the Department it will be answered in line with Whitehall standards.

Orders and Regulations

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many statutory instruments have been laid before the House by his Department in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [259488]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) was established on 28 June 2007. Its predecessors were the Department for Education and Employment (DfEE) from 5 July 1995 to 10 June 2001 and the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) from 11 June 2001 to 27 June 2007.

All statutory instruments are 'made' (signed) by Ministers or senior officials. Not all statutory instruments are required to be 'laid' before the House of Commons and House of Lords.

The records for the Department for Children, Schools and Families and its predecessors show only the numbers of statutory instruments made and not the numbers laid. The number of statutory instruments made each year since 1997 were as follows:

	DfEE	DfES	DCSF
1997	70	—	—
1998	144	—	—
1999	231	—	—
2000	164	—	—
2001	91	100	—
2002	—	168	—
2003	—	142	—
2004	—	124	—
2005	—	150	—
2006	—	127	—
2007	—	113	44
2008	—	—	132

Primary Education: Admissions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in each local authority have not been allocated a place at a primary school for September 2009; and if he will make a statement. [261603]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department does not collect data on offers of primary school places or on the number of unplaced children. Local authorities are under a duty to make sure that every child of compulsory school age has a suitable school place.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what account *(a)* his Department and *(b)* local education authorities in Greater London took of the effect of (i) the birth rate and (ii) Greater London Authority forecasts of the number of children entering primary education in (A) 2000 and (B) 2005 when determining policy on the provision; by what plans he has to take account of the demand for primary school places following changes in the birth rate in (1) 2009, (2) 2012 and (3) 2015; and if he will make a statement. [262552]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In reply to part *(a)* of your question, when determining policy on the provision of school places, the Department took no direct account of the birth rate or of GLA forecasts of the number of children entering primary education in 2000, 2005 or 2009. Local authorities are responsible for planning provision for their areas. The Department allocates basic need capital to enable authorities to fund new places in response to pupil number growth. To ensure that local authorities can plan strategically, funding is fixed for three years at the beginning of each spending review period (the current period runs from April 2008 to March 2011). In determining basic need allocations, the Department uses local authorities' own pupil number forecasts, expecting authorities themselves to take account of local factors that will influence future pupil numbers such as birth rate, new housing and population migration. The Department relies on the accuracy of local authority forecasts as it does not hold back funds to allow for future changes.

In reply to part *(b)* of your question, the Department does not collect information on the extent to which local education authorities in Greater London take account of the birth rate and GLA forecasts of the number of children entering primary education.

All basic need resources for 2008-09 to 2010-11 have been allocated. However, the Department is reviewing emerging pupil number trends to inform the spending review period 2011-12 onwards and will consider whether to continue allocating all basic need funding at the beginning of a new CSR period.

Pupil Referral Units

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* dually registered and *(b)* other pupils attended pupil referral units in each local authority area in each year since 1997. [259298]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information has been placed in the Libraries.

Pupils: Absenteeism

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of children in each decile of area deprivation by *(a)* pupil residence and *(b)* school location were classified as persistent absentees in each of the last three years. [260542]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is shown in the following table for 2006/07 only. Information for previous years is not available.

Number and percentage[1] of persistent absentees in schools[2,3] by IDACI decile[4] of pupil residence[5] and school location, 2006/07

	By pupil residence		By school location	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
0-10% most deprived areas	60,249	7.4	33,296	5.4
10-20%	46,781	6.4	32,133	5.1
20-30%	37,625	5.6	31,268	4.8
30-40%	30,003	4.7	30,644	4.5
40-50%	23,332	3.9	29,592	4.3
50-60%	19,121	3.2	28,498	4.0
60-70%	15,845	2.7	23,105	3.6
70-80%	13,321	2.3	21,544	3.4
80-90%	10,653	1.8	22,011	3.3
90-100% least deprived areas	8,510	1.5	20,863	3.2
Total	265,440	4.1	272,954	4.1

[1] Number of Persistent Absentees expressed as a percentage of the total number of enrolments.
[2] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[3] School coverage is maintained primary and secondary schools, maintained and non-maintained special schools, city technology colleges and academies. Excludes general hospital schools.
[4] 2004 Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index at Super Output Area level.
[5] Pupil residency figures include only those pupils with a valid postcode.

Religion: Curriculum

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what provision is made within the national curriculum for the discussion of non-religious beliefs. [261880]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Religious education (RE) is a statutory part of the basic school curriculum. Schools must teach RE according to locally agreed syllabuses or in the case of voluntary aided schools with a religious character, according to the trust deed of the school. Local Standing Advisory Councils for RE (SACREs) have the responsibility to ensure that local syllabuses develop pupils' knowledge, understanding and awareness of Christianity and the major religions represented in the country and reflect the values and traditions of the community. RE encourages respect for those holding different beliefs and helps promote pupils' moral, cultural and spiritual development.

In 2004, the Department with the QCA published a non-statutory framework for RE which has been supported by all the main faith groups and the British Humanist Association. It says that pupils should learn about Christianity throughout each key stage and, by the end of Key Stage 3, pupils should have encountered the other five principal religions (Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism) in sufficient depth. It also recommends that pupils have opportunities to study other religious traditions such as the Baha'i faith, Jainism, Zoroastrianism and secular philosophies such as humanism.

Schools: Admissions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many maintained schools other than grammar schools select a proportion of their pupils on the basis of aptitude in a particular subject; and if he will make a statement. [262326]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Following local consultation, maintained schools may introduce selection of up to 10 per cent. of their intake on the basis of aptitude for prescribed subjects.

As these arrangements are determined locally, we do not hold data centrally on the number of schools who do so.

Schools: Anti-Semitism

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what requests he has received from the Jewish community for additional school security measures in the last three months. [261740]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Secretary of State received one letter on this issue since the beginning of December 2008. This was a letter dated 1 December from the Community Security Trust. That letter followed previous exchanges and expressed the Trust's hope that the Department's Targeted Capital Fund might provide additional funding for security at Jewish schools.

Schools: Warnings

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many warning notices have been issued to schools by each local authority in each year from 1997 to 2008; and if he will make a statement. [261645]

Jim Knight: Local authorities are not currently required to inform the Secretary of State if they issue a warning notice but since April 2007 (when the Education and Inspections Act 2006 came into force) have been under a duty to copy all warning notices to Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools.

Between April 2007 and August 2008 17 warning notices were issued to schools Between September 2008 and mid February 2009, 24 warning notices have been issued.

Science: GCSE

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in *(a)* England, *(b)* Kent and *(c)* Ashford constituency took one or more science GCSE in the last five year period for which figures are available. [249185]

Jim Knight: The figures available are given in the following table.

Number of children who took one or more science GCSE

	2008	*2007*	*2006*	*2005*
England	592,209	599,687	592,850	583,282
Maintained Schools[1]	549,813	551,401	544,766	536,866
Kent[1]	15,595	15,563	15,263	15,218
Ashford[2]	1,118	986	1,036	1,045

[1] Including academies.
[2] Based on school location.
Notes:
1. The data for 2004 are not comparable.
2. Data presented on same basis as table 10, 11 and 12 of the 2008 GCSE SFR.
Source:
Attainment and Achievement Table

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools entered one or more pupils for separate sciences at GCSE in the most recent year for which figures are available. [249886]

Jim Knight: In 2008, 1,474 maintained mainstream schools entered one or more pupils for either physics, chemistry or biology GCSE.

Secondary Education: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children were not offered a place at their first preference secondary school in West Chelmsford constituency in each of the last five years. [261764]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: 2008 was the first year that local authorities were required to provide data to the Secretary of State on secondary school offers made to parents on the day that parents are notified of their school places. Data was not collected at a constituency level. Figures for Essex local authority, in which West Chelmsford constituency is situated, showed that 19.2 per cent. (3,087) of children resident in that authority who were eligible to transfer to secondary school in September 2008 were not offered a place at their parents' first choice school. 96 per cent. were offered a preferred school.

The day that parents are notified of their secondary school place is the first part of the process of obtaining a preferred school. These figures are likely to have changed by September as places became available or appeals were successful.

Data on 2009 secondary school applications and offers will be published on 12 March.

Social Services: Co-operation

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of procedures for co-operation between education and social services at local authority level. [258202]

Beverley Hughes: Since 1 January 2008, the Children Act 2004, which followed the Victoria Climbié inquiry and the "Every Child Matters" Green Paper, has required local authorities to have a single director of children's services with responsibility for education and children's social services. This single officer provides a clear line of accountability for, and strong leadership of, all children's services.

Inspectorates assess the effectiveness of children's services. Until 2008, Ofsted made an annual performance assessment (APA) of each council's children's services. Inspectorates undertook a joint area review (JAR) of children's services in each local authority area during the period from 2005 to 2008.

From 2009, APAs and JARs will be replaced by a new comprehensive area assessment (CAA), led by the Audit Commission and including Ofsted and other relevant inspectorates. CAAs will report annually on services, including children's services, in each local authority area. Ofsted will lead a programme to inspect children's safeguarding and services for looked-after children, in each local authority area every three years. Inspectors may also decide to carry out inspections on other services, should a CAA report indicate that they are poor and not improving.

Special Educational Needs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent on issuing statements of special educational needs in each local authority area in the most recent year for which figures are available. [256343]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department does not collect the information on how much was spent on issuing statements of special educational needs. However, the information provided to the Department by local authorities on their total planned net expenditure on the administration, assessment and co-ordination of statements for 2008-09 is contained within the following table.

Local authority name	*Table 1: 2.0.2 SEN administration assessment and co-ordination*
England	86,016,000
Barking and Dagenham	277,000
Barnet	1,330,000
Barnsley	297,000
Bath and NE Somerset	188,000
Bedfordshire	716,000
Bexley	290,000
Birmingham	2,180,000
Blackburn and Darwen	294,000
Blackpool	293,000
Bolton	360,000
Bournemouth	300,000
Bracknell Forest	196,000
Bradford	893,000
Brent	990,000
Brighton and Hove	234,000
Bromley	829,000
Buckinghamshire	2,926,000
Bury	0
Calderdale	134,000
Cambridgeshire	815,000
Camden	982,000
Cheshire	1,334,000
City of Bristol	473,000
City of Kingston-upon-Hull	337,000
City of London	8,000
City of Nottingham	68,000
City of Peterborough	357,000
City of Plymouth	241,000
Cornwall	1,232,000
Coventry	497,000
Croydon	670,000
Cumbria	1,028,000
Darlington	219,000
Derby	100,000
Derbyshire	1,202,000
Devon	656,000
Doncaster	365,000
Dorset	569,000
Dudley	961,000
Durham	766,000
Ealing	457,000
East Riding of Yorkshire	127,000
East Sussex	1,370,000
Enfield	555,000
Essex	0
Gateshead	436,000
Gloucestershire	445,000
Greenwich	765,000
Hackney	524,000
Halton	187,000
Hammersmith and Fulham	390,000
Hampshire	2,035,000
Haringey	680,000
Harrow	171,000
Hartlepool	81,000
Havering	339,000
Herefordshire	586,000
Hertfordshire	2,781,000
Hillingdon	507,000
Hounslow	479,000
Isle of Wight	261,000
Isles of Scilly	7,000
Islington	631,000
Kensington and Chelsea	511,000
Kent	3,126,000
Kingston-upon-Thames	298,000
Kirklees	339,000
Knowsley	339,000
Lambeth	129,000
Lancashire	0
Leeds	344,000
Leicester City	501,000
Leicestershire	624,000

Local authority name	Table 1: 2.0.2 SEN administration assessment and co-ordination
Lewisham	608,000
Lincolnshire	2,105,000
Liverpool	97,000
Luton	286,000
Manchester	134,000
Medway	353,000
Merton	545,000
Middlesbrough	286,000
Milton Keynes	1,002,000
Newcastle upon Tyne	28,000
Newham	1,444,000
Norfolk	1,769,000
North East Lincolnshire	599,000
North Lincolnshire	107,000
North Somerset	286,000
North Tyneside	293,000
North Yorkshire	980,000
Northamptonshire	674,000
Northumberland	575,000
Nottinghamshire	657,000
Oldham	247,000
Oxfordshire	1,024,000
Poole	213,000
Portsmouth	203,000
Reading	118,000
Redbridge	0
Redcar and Cleveland	95,000
Richmond-upon-Thames	355,000
Rochdale	367,000
Rotherham	337,000
Rutland	186,000
Salford	392,000
Sandwell	803,000
Sefton	134,000
Sheffield	579,000
Shropshire	92,000
Slough	260,000
Solihull	178,000
Somerset	1,322,000
South Gloucestershire	449,000
South Tyneside	413,000
Southampton	296,000
Southend	305,000
Southwark	635,000
St Helens	250,000
Staffordshire	834,000
Stockport	389,000
Stockton-on-Tees	271,000
Stoke	306,000
Suffolk	469,000
Sunderland	365,000
Surrey	1,866,000
Sutton	562,000
Swindon	281,000
Tameside	385,000
Telford and Wrekin	331,000
Thurrock	383,000
Torbay	161,000
Tower Hamlets	737,000
Trafford	496,000
Wakefield	159,000
Walsall	498,000
Waltham Forest	666,000
Wandsworth	632,000
Warrington	401,000
Warwickshire	1,410,000
West Berkshire	229,000
West Sussex	513,000
Westminster	810,000
Wigan	939,000
Wiltshire	946,000
Windsor and Maidenhead	245,000
Wirral	382,000
Wokingham	616,000
Wolverhampton	353,000
Worcestershire	1,613,000
York	57,000

Notes:
Bury, Essex, Lancashire and Redbridge local authorities have recorded zero for line 2.0.2. These LAs have recorded some elements of SEN administration assessment and co-ordination within other SEN lines in the data collection. Lines include 2.0.1 (Educational Psychology Service), 1.2.1 (Provision for pupils with SEN, (including assigned resources), 1.2.2 (Provision for pupils with SEN, provision not included in line 1.2.1) and 1.2.3 (Support for inclusion). Detailed guidance is provided by DCSF on how to complete various lines in the data collection. It is however for each local authority to determine how they eventually record these activities.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which maintained special schools have been assessed as inadequate by Ofsted in each of the last 10 years. [257657]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to the hon. Member and a copy of her reply has been placed in the Libraries.

Letter from Christine Gilbert:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

Tables A-J show all maintained special schools which have been placed in special measures in each academic year in the last ten years. Special measures is an Ofsted category, defined at present in the Education Act 2005, meaning that a school is failing to give its pupils an acceptable standard of education and the persons responsible for leading, managing or governing the school are not demonstrating the capacity to secure the necessary improvement.

Please be aware that the framework for inspecting maintained special schools changed in January 2000, September 2003 and September 2005. As a result, there has been no consistent 'inadequate' category over this period. These tables are, therefore, limited to those maintained special schools placed in special measures, as this category has been in place throughout the period in question.

A copy of this reply has been sent to right hon. Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, and will be placed in the Library of both Houses.

Table A: Maintained special schools placed in special measures in 2007-08 (six maintained special schools)

URN	School name	LA name
132008	Burwood School	Bromley
113963	Longspee School	Poole
131296	Montrose	Wigan
115817	Cam House School	Gloucestershire

Table A: Maintained special schools placed in special measures in 2007-08 (six maintained special schools)

URN	School name	LA name
123631	Southall School	Telford and Wrekin
119882	North Cliffe School	Lancashire

Table B: Maintained special schools placed in special measures in 2006-07 (11 maintained special schools)

URN	School name	LA name
113636	Barley Lane School	Devon
119869	Massey Hall School	Lancashire
102557	Syon Park School	Hounslow
110946	Spring Common School	Cambridgeshire
123939	The Priory School	Somerset
111502	Cloughwood School	Cheshire
108129	Elmete Wood-BESD	Leeds
126170	Cornfield School, Littlehampton	West Sussex
128190	Pathways Special School	Redcar & Cleveland
115451	Homestead School	Essex
104496	Highfield School	Knowsley

Table C: Maintained special schools placed in special measures in 2005-06 (two maintained special schools)

URN	School name	LA name
115443	Priory School	Southend-On-Sea
122962	Woodlands School	Nottingham City

Table D: Maintained special schools placed in special measures in 2004-05 (eight maintained special schools)

URN	School name	LA name
107468	Wedgwood School and Community Nursery	Bradford
109747	Oak Bank School	Bedfordshire
132156	Kingshill School	Wigan
126168	Aldwickfield Community Special School	West Sussex
119895	Brookfield School	Lancashire
106968	Kelford School	Rotherham
106971	Whiston Grange School	Rotherham
109397	Wansdyke School	Bath and North East Somerset

Table E: Maintained special schools placed in special measures in 2003-04 (13 maintained special schools)

URN	School name	LA name
103761	Dartmouth School	Coventry
109398	Lime Grove Special School	Bath and North East Somerset
125457	St Nicholas School	Surrey
115819	Sandford School	Gloucestershire
109741	Rainbow School	Bedfordshire
122134	The Orchard School	Northamptonshire
123346	Northfield School	Oxfordshire
105614	Meade Hill School	Manchester
105755	Hardman Fold Community Special School	Oldham
103890	The Old Park School	Dudley
106548	Two Porches School	Wigan

Table E: Maintained special schools placed in special measures in 2003-04 (13 maintained special schools)

URN	School name	LA name
131491	Redgrave School	Worcestershire
115475	Leadon Springs School	Essex

Table F: Maintained special schools placed in special measures in 2002-03 (18 maintained special schools)

URN	School name	LA name
131817	Brookfield School	Hertfordshire
101833	Beckmead School	Croydon
107173	East Hill Primary School	Sheffield
119033	Halstead Place School	Kent
107181	Dr John Worrall School	Sheffield
133442	The Michael Tippett School	Lambeth
132122	Mount Gilbert School	Telford and Wrekin
133432	Silverdale School	North Tyneside
132157	Highfield Secondary School	Wigan
106011	Mew Park High School	Salford
118140	Oakfield	Kingston Upon Hull
108121	Stonegate School	Leeds
131988	Thomas Bewick School	Newcastle Upon Tyne
133401	Waterside School	Greenwich
113648	Brook Green Centre for Learning	Plymouth
105623	Southern Cross School	Manchester
104026	Whittington Grange School	Sandwell
100761	Anerley School for Boys	Lewisham

Table G: Maintained special schools placed in special measures in 2001-02 (six maintained special schools)

URN	School name	LA name
131692	Lever Park School	Bolton
130353	Oaklands School	Leicester City
116638	Hawthorns School	Hampshire
131598	Ian Mikardo School	Tower Hamlets
110937	Littleton House School	Cambridgeshire
105624	Castlefield School	Manchester

Table H: Maintained special schools placed in special measures in 2000-01 (nine maintained special schools)

URN	School name	LA name
102878	Little Heath School	Redbridge
131594	Nightingale School	Wandsworth
102557	Syon Park School	Hounslow
125466	Wey House School	Surrey
109747	Oak Bank School	Bedfordshire
131491	Redgrave School	Worcestershire
117050	Cliffey House School	Worcestershire
107800	Hartshead Moor School	Kirklees
103115	Hawkswood School and Centre	Waltham Forest

Table 1: Maintained special schools placed in special measures in 1999-2000 (15 maintained special schools)

URN	School name	LA name
111779	King Edwin School	Stockton-on-Tees
110189	Phoenix College	Reading
118151	South Wolds School	East Riding of Yorkshire
126547	St Lukes School	Swindon
132008	Burwood School	Bromley
103606	Baskerville School	Birmingham
115449	Ramsden Hall School	Essex
110938	The Lady Adrian Special School	Cambridgeshire
104414	Tettenhall Wood School	Wolverhampton
125480	Philip Southcote School	Surrey
104739	Lower Lee School	Liverpool
106545	Hindley Borsdane Brook School	Wigan
109399	Filton Park School	South Gloucestershire
104979	Merefield School	Sefton
102261	Whitmore School	Harrow

Table 2: Special schools placed in special measures in 1998-99 (17 maintained special schools)

URN	School name	LA name
118144	Kings Mill School	East Riding of Yorkshire
107179	Deerlands School	Sheffield
111496	Fox Wood Special School	Warrington
124905	Warren School	Suffolk
108122	Richard Ousther School	Leeds
107804	Nortonthorpe Hall School	Kirklees
101395	Northway School	Barnet
108742	Greenfields School	South Tyneside
114678	The Alternative Centre for Education	Brighton and Hove
109412	Fulford School	City of Bristol
103628	Oscott Manor School	Birmingham
102792	Beckton Special School	Newham
104273	Daw End School	Walsall
108882	Sunningdale School	Sunderland
125795	River House School	Warwickshire
125479	John Nightingale School	Surrey
120362	Millgate School	Leicester City

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of children in each decile of area deprivation by *(a)* pupil residence and *(b)* school location have been recorded as having (i) statemented and (ii) non-statemented special educational needs. [260288]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is shown in the following tables.

(i) Percentage of children in schools[1, 2] with a statement of special educational needs[3] by IDACI decile[4] of pupil residence and school location, 2008

	Percentage of children with a statement of SEN	
IDACI decile[4]	By pupil residency	By school location
0-10% most deprived areas	3.4	2.9
10-20%	3.4	3.2
20-30%	3.4	2.9
30-40%	3.1	3.4
40-50%	2.9	2.8
50-60%	2.6	2.7
60-70%	2.5	2.7
70-80%	2.3	2.5
80-90%	2.2	2.7
90-100% least deprived areas	2.1	2.7

(ii) Percentage of children in schools[1, 2] with special educational needs[3] but without a statement by IDACI decile[4] of pupil residence and school location, 2008

	Percentage of children with SEN but without a statement	
IDACI decile[4]	By pupil residency	By school location
0-10% most deprived areas	26.0	24.3
10-20%	23.8	22.9
20-30%	21.6	20.7
30-40%	19.4	19.1
40-50%	17.3	17.4
50-60%	15.3	16.4
60-70%	13.9	15.5
70-80%	12.6	14.7
80-90%	11.6	13.8
90-100% least deprived areas	9.9	12.8

[1] Excludes dually registered pupils.
[2] Includes maintained and non-maintained special schools. Excludes general hospital schools.
[3] Excludes pupils whose SEN status is unknown.
[4] Income Deprivation Affecting Children Indices.
Source:
Spring 2008 School Census.

Special Educational Needs: Disadvantaged

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 25 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 816-7W, on special educational needs: disadvantaged, what the proportion of pupils with special educational needs was in each *(a)* decile and *(b)* year referred to in the table. [260480]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is as follows.

Proportion of pupils[1] with special educational needs[2] by IDACI[3] decile of known residence, 2004, 2007 and 2008

	Primary schools			Secondary schools[4]		
	2004	2007	2008	2004	2007	2008
0 to 10% most deprived	24.8	26.7	26.6	25.8	29.5	31.4
10 to 20%	22.9	24.6	24.9	22.8	26.3	27.9
20 to 30%	21.0	22.4	23.3	20.2	23.1	24.8
30 to 40%	19.2	20.9	21.3	17.5	20.4	21.8
40 to 50%	17.4	18.8	19.1	15.3	17.7	19.4

Proportion of pupils[1] with special educational needs[2] by IDACI[3] decile of known residence, 2004, 2007 and 2008[4]

	Primary schools			Secondary schools[5]		
	2004	2007	2008	2004	2007	2008
50 to 60%	15.6	17.0	17.2	13.5	15.7	16.9
60 to 70%	14.2	15.4	15.9	12.2	14.3	15.3
70 to 80%	13.0	14.3	14.5	10.7	12.8	13.8
80 to 90%	11.9	13.0	13.4	9.8	11.6	12.8
90 to 100% least deprived	10.5	11.7	11.7	8.3	10.1	10.8

[1] Excludes dually registered pupils.
[2] Excludes pupils whose SEN status is unknown.
[3] Income Deprivation Affecting Children Indices.
[4] Includes CTCs and academies.
Source:
School Census

Special Educational Needs: Pupil Exclusions

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1071W, on special educational needs: pupil exclusions, when information on exclusions from pupil referral units ceased to be collected; and for what reasons the decision to cease collection was taken. [261580]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: As part of the Department's efforts to reduce burdens on educational establishments, separate collections of exclusion information ceased in 2006. For mainstream schools, exclusions data is now returned through the School Census. A pilot was held to collect School Census data from Pupil Referral Units. The issues from that pilot are being addressed and a Pupil Referral Unit Census, including exclusion information, will be introduced in January 2010.

Teachers: Sick Leave

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average number of days sickness taken per teacher in *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools was (i) in total and (ii) in each decile of area deprivation in each year for which figures are available. [261605]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not available broken down by phase of education or decile of area deprivation.

Information for full-time and part-time teacher sickness absence in local authority maintained schools in England in calendar years 2000 to 2007 is available in table 13 of the school workforce statistical first release and is available at the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000813/SFR282008 tables.xls

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Central Office of Information: Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will publish the information held on the *(a)* Knowledge Archive and *(b)* Retain databases on the Central Office of Information (i) employee headcount, (ii) job titles in use and (iii) staff allocations between divisions in each year since 2006-07. [26995]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Central Office of Information. I have asked the chief executive to reply.

Letter from Alan Bishop, dated 30 January 2009:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question (26995) to place in the Library a copy of the information held on the Knowledge Archive and Retain databases detailing information on employee headcount, job titles in use and allocation of staff between divisions in each year since 2006-07.

The Knowledge Archive is an IT programme that categorises jobs by different headings such as type or subject in order to locate them more easily in our records. It does not have data about employee headcount, job titles or staff allocation between divisions.

Retain is a proprietary resource planning IT tool used in just one division of COI to help manage project workflow. It does not have data about employee headcount, COI wide job titles or staff allocation between divisions.

Disclosure of Information: Home Office

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what discussions his special adviser has had with *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* civil servants and *(c)* others on the police investigation into the unauthorised disclosure of documents from the Home Office. [261457]

Mr. Byrne: None.

Eco-towns

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the Duchy of Lancaster has been involved in bids for, or considered any involvement in eco-town developments. [258121]

Mr. Byrne: The Duchy of Lancaster has made no bids and has no involvement in eco-town developments.

Government Departments: Manpower

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people have been employed by Government departments or agencies on *(a)* a permanent basis and *(b)* a temporary basis in each year since 1997, broken down by Department or agency; and in each case how many of those employees were (i) born in the UK and (ii) not born in the UK. [261033]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many people have been employed by Government departments or agencies on (a) a permanent basis and (b) a temporary basis in each year since 1997, broken down by department or agency; and in each case how many employees were (i) born in the UK and (ii) not born in the UK. (261033)

The Office for National Statistics collects detailed diversity statistics for people employed by Government departments and agencies as part of the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey

(ACS25). Information relating to whether employees were born (or not born) in the UK has never been collected as part of Civil Service Statistics.

The number of people employed by Government departments or agencies on a permanent and temporary basis up to 2005 was published by Cabinet Office and is available on-line:

http://beta.civilservice.gov.uk/about/who/statistics/archived-reports.aspx

The number of people employed by Government departments or agencies on a permanent and temporary basis, post-2005, as published by Office for National Statistics, is detailed in Annex A.

Civil Service employment by Department and appointment status[1]—All employees

Headcount

Department	2006[2,3]		2007[3]		2008[3]	
	Permanent	*Temporary/casual*	*Permanent*	*Temporary/casual*	*Permanent*	*Temporary/casual*
Attorney-General's Department						
Attorney-General's Office	40	0	50	0	50	0
Crown Prosecution Service	9,040	10	8,410	370	8,330	400
Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate	40	0	40	10	40	10
Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office	—	—	300	0	290	0
Serious Fraud Office	—	—	310	0	310	*
Treasury Solicitor	720	0	700	20	750	10
Business, Enterprise and regulatory Reform[4]						
Department of Trade and Industry[5]	4,570	20	—	—	—	—
Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (excl. agencies)	—	—	3,430	10	3,450	20
Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service	—	—	730	60	740	60
Companies House	—	—	1,120	*	1,120	70
Insolvency Service	2,190	30	2,430	20	2,530	10
Office of Fair Trading	—	—	570	10	580	10
Office of Gas and Electricity Market	—	—	280	10	280	20
Postal Services Commission	—	—	60	*	60	*
Small Business Service[5]	180	*	—	—	—	—
Employment Tribunals Service[5]	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cabinet Office						
Cabinet Office (excl. agencies)	—	—	1,360	20	1,230	10
Privy Council Office[6]	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Cabinet Office agencies						
Central Office of Information	—	—	620	50	690	110
National School of Government	—	—	250	0	240	0
Parliamentary Counsel Office	—	—	80	0	70	0
HM Treasury						
HM Treasury	1,170	60	1,130	60	1,080	70
HM Revenue and Customs						
HM Revenue and Customs[7]	—	—	89,910	2,200	88,900	2,050

Civil Service employment by Department and appointment status[1] — All employees

Headcount

Department	2006[1,3] Permanent	2006[1,3] Temporary/casual	2007[4] Permanent	2007[4] Temporary/casual	2008[5] Permanent	2008[5] Temporary/casual
Former Inland Revenue[7,9]	79,620	0	—	—	—	—
Former Customs and Excise[9,10]	—	—	—	—	—	—
Valuation Office	4,770	0	4,360	20	4,280	30
Chancellor's other departments						
Debt Management Office	—	—	70	•	80	•
Government Actuary's Department	100	0	100	0	100	0
National Savings and Investments	—	—	120	•	130	•
Office for National Statistics	3,330	230	3,240	230	3,160	200
Office of Government Commerce	—	—	240	10	180	50
OGC Buying.solutions	—	—	280	•	260	•
Royal Mint	730	120	670	50	710	40
Charity Commission						
Charity Commission	550	10	500	10	490	10
Children, Schools and Families						
Department for Children, Schools and Families[11]	—	—	3,490	20	3,340	10
Education and Skills						
Department for Education and Skills[12]	4,320	20	—	—	—	—
Innovation, Universities and Skills						
Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills[13]	—	—	790	•	790	•
National Weights and Measures Laboratory	50	•	50	•	50	0
UK Intellectual Property Office	960	0	1,010	0	1,000	0
Office for Standards in Education						
Office for Standards in Education	—	—	2,630	120	2,460	110
Communities and Local Government						
Department for Communities and Local Government (excl. agencies)	3,660	40	2,880	60	2,930	60
Fire Service College	—	—	250	0	240	•
Ordnance Survey	1,450	. 0	1,400	20	1,390	20
Planning Inspectorate	960	20	860	0	840	0
Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre	—	—	50	•	50	•

Civil Service employment by Department and appointment status[1] — All employees

Headcount

Department	*2006[2,3]*		*2007[4]*		*2008[4]*	
	Permanent	*Temporary/casual*	*Permanent*	*Temporary/casual*	*Permanent*	*Temporary/casual*
Culture, Media and Sport						
Department for Culture, Media and Sport	580	0	520	•	470	10
Royal Parks	90	10	90	10	100	0
Defence						
Ministry of Defence	74,720	1,140	70,210	930	68,220	790
Royal Fleet Auxiliary	2,370	0	2,350	0	2,280	0
Army Base Repair Organisation	2,150	0	2,160	20	2,340	30
Defence Aviation Repair Agency	2,500	0	2,030	20	2,000	20
Defence Science and Technology Laboratory	3,390	0	3,350	40	3,410	40
Meteorological Office	1,700	0	1,660	20	1,770	20
UK Hydrographic Office	970	0	1,040	10	1,040	10
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs						
Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (excl. agencies)	5,690	120	3,630	50	3,050	40
Animal Health	1,430	60	1,690	40	1,640	30
Central Science Laboratory	680	70	640	30	640	20
Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science	550	•	550	10	530	10
Government Decontamination Services	20	•	20	•	30	•
Marine Fisheries Agency	160	0	180	•	180	0
Office of Water Services	190	10	200	10	200	10
Pesticides Safety Directorate	200	10	190	•	180	•
Rural Payments Agency	—	—	3,550	200	3,440	100
Veterinary Laboratories Agency	1,320	30	1,290	30	1,280	20
Veterinary Medicines Directorate	150	0	140	0	140	0
Export Credit Guarantee Department						
Export Credit Guarantee Department	260	•	220	0	210	0
Foreign and Commonwealth Office						
Foreign and Commonwealth Office (excl. agencies)	6,610	50	6,070	0	5,950	0
Wilton Park Executive Agency	70	0	80	0	70	0
Health						
Department of Health (excl. agencies)	2,500	40	2,300	30	2,180	40

Civil Service employment by Department and appointment status[1] – All employees[2]

Headcount

Department	2006[3,4] Permanent	2006[3,4] Temporary/casual	2007[4] Permanent	2007[4] Temporary/casual	2008[4] Permanent	2008[4] Temporary/casual
Food Standards Agency	—	—	780	20	770	20
Meat Hygiene Service	—	—	1,330	10	1,230	10
Medical and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency	—	—	830	40	860	40
National Healthcare Purchasing and Supplies Agency	—	—	320	10	270	*
NHS Business Services Authority[5,6]	—	—	250	0	240	0
Home Office						
Home Office (excl. Agencies)	24,830	460	2,670	90	2,720	50
Border and Immigration Agency[7,8]	—	—	19,430	210	19,290	70
Criminal Records Bureau	—	—	430	0	480	0
Identity and Passport Service	—	—	4,030	20	4,050	10
Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism[9]	—	—	220	10	250	*
Assets Recovery Agency[10]	—	—	180	10	—	—
Justice						
Ministry of Justice (excl. agencies)	—	—	3,590	110	3,680	110
HM Courts Service	—	—	20,960	500	20,830	610
Land Registry	8,500	30	8,210	30	8,020	40
National Archives	—	—	600	10	610	10
Public Guardianship Office	—	—	330	*	310	*
Public Sector Prison Service	48,010	1,140	48,170	1,130	49,970	1,280
Scotland Office	30	0	30	0	60	0
Tribunals Service	—	—	2,830	140	2,860	140
Wales Office	—	—	50	*	50	10
International Development						
Department for International Development	—	—	1,740	0	1,670	*
Northern Ireland Office						
Northern Ireland Office	170	0	140	*	150	*
Security and Intelligence Services						
Security and Intelligence Services	5,130	10	5,260	0	5,320	0
Transport						
Department for Transport (excl. agencies)	2,280	0	2,690	20	2,810	20
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	6,710	270	6,690	370	6,440	170
Driving Standards Agency	2,740	10	2,650	0	2,700	*
Government Car and Despatch Agency	—	—	290	*	310	*

Civil Service employment by Department and appointment status[1]—All employers

Headcount

Department	2006[2,3] Permanent	2006[2,3] Temporary/casual	2007[4] Permanent	2007[4] Temporary/casual	2008[5] Permanent	2008[5] Temporary/casual
Highways Agency	3,430	0	3,480	10	3,510	10
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	—	—	1,240	30	1,180	50
Office of Rail Regulation	—	—	330	10	330	10
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	2,660	0	2,360	110	2,430	120
Vehicle Certification Agency	110	0	120	•	130	•
Work and Pensions						
DWP Corporate and Shared Services[10]	11,200	410	—	—	—	—
DWP Corporate Services[10]	—	—	5,710	50	5,650	40
DWP Shared Services[10]	—	—	4,600	120	4,450	140
Child Support Agency	12,890	340	11,690	40	10,710	20
Disability and Carers Service	7,300	70	6,550	60	6,270	•
Job Centre Plus	79,040	2,210	73,700	1,160	73,320	1,020
Pension Service	14,330	660	12,500	270	11,670	120
The Health and Safety Executive	4,010	0	3,780	0	3,600	0
The Rent Service	0	0	650	0	570	0
Scottish Government						
Scottish Government (excl. agencies)	5,190	80	4,370	40	4,500	90
Communities Scotland	440	•	400	•	360	•
Courts Group	40	0	40	0	30	0
Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service	—	—	1,560	70	1,560	80
Fisheries Research Services	310	20	310	20	310	10
General Register Scotland	250	10	270	10	280	10
Historic Scotland	990	100	1,000	70	1,020	70
HM Inspectorate of Education	200	•	200	•	200	•
Mental Health Tribunal for Scotland	70	0	70	0	80	0
National Archives for Scotland	150	•	150	10	150	10
Office of Accountant in Bankruptcy	110	•	120	•	100	•
Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator	30	0	40	0	50	0
Registers of Scotland	1,440	20	1,350	10	1,280	30
Scottish Agricultural Scientific Agency	150	10	140	10	140	10
Scottish Buildings Standards Agency	30	0	30	0	30	0
Scottish Court Service	1,200	40	1,290	0	1,400	0
Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency	320	•	310	•	300	10
Scottish Prison Service	—	—	4,010	40	4,000	40
Scottish Public Pensions Agency	220	•	220	•	220	0
Social Work Inspection Agency	70	•	50	0	50	0
Student Awards Agency	150	•	150	•	140	•
Transport Scotland	220	•	250	•	250	•

Civil Service employment by Department and appointment status[1]—All employees

Headcount

Department	2006[2,3] Permanent	2006[2,3] Temporary/casual	2007[4] Permanent	2007[4] Temporary/casual	2008[5] Permanent	2008[5] Temporary/casual
Welsh Assembly						
Welsh Assembly Government	5,760	310	5,690	340	5,680	480
ESTYN	100	0	90	0	100	0
Assembly Parliamentary Service[19]	—	—	—	—	—	—
All employees	477,870	8,290	521,620	10,210	515,660	9,490

[1] Numbers are rounded to the nearest ten, and numbers less than five are represented by "*". Data not available are represented by "—".
[2] Collection reference date 30 September 2006.
[3] The data for 2006 is based on the Mandate collection which provides approximately 80 per cent. coverage of Civil Service departments and agencies.
[4] Collection reference date 30 September 2007.
[5] Collection reference dale 31 March 2008.
[6] The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform was formed in June 2007 from part of the former Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Better Regulation Executive (BRE from the Cabinet Office and the Regional Economic Performance Unit from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG).
[7] For the 2007 and 2008 collections data for the Small Business Service was included as part of the main Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) data.
[8] Employment Tribunals Service—Department for Trade and Industry (now Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform) funding ceased from April 2006, as responsibility transferred to Department for Constitutional Affairs (now Ministry of Justice).
[9] Privy Council Office ceased to exist 1 April 2007.
[10] HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) was formed on 18 April 2005, following the merger of Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise Departments.
[11] Department for Children, Schools and Families was formed from part of the Department for Education and Skills in June 2007.
[12] Department for Education and Skills (DFES) ceased to exist in June 2007. It was replaced by two new Departments, namely, Department for Children, Schools and Families and Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.
[13] Department for innovation, Universities and Skills was formed from part of the Department for Education and Skills in June 2007
[14] NHS Business Services Authority was created 1 October 2005 and began operating on 1 April 2006.
[15] Border and Immigration agency were formed 1 April 2007.
[16] Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism was formed July 2007.
[17] Assets Recovery Agency ceased to exist in its own right as of March 2008.
[18] For the 2006 collection DWP provided combined data for its Corporate and Shared Service. For 2007 and 2008 separate data returns were provided for DWP Corporate Services and DWP Shared Services.
[19] From 1 April 2007 Assembly Parliamentary Service were no longer classified as Civil Service.
Source:
(Unpublished) Annual Civil Service Employment Survey and Mandate Collection.

Government Departments: Publicity

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was spent by the Government on public relations, advertising and marketing in each year from 1995 to 2005 according to figures held by the Central Office of Information. [247596]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Central Office of Information. I have asked the chief executive to reply.

Letter from Alan Bishop, dated 30 January 2009:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question [247596] Government expenditure on public relations, advertising and marketing on figures held by COI for year from 1995 to 2005.

These are listed in the table below.

Year	£ million
1995-06	76
1996-07	81.2
1997-08	68.6
1998-09	126.7
1999-2000	148.6
2000-01	227.1
2001-02	196.7
2002-03	189.8
2003-04	233.6
2004-05	251

Iraq: Weapons

Mr. Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the 2008 ruling by the Information Tribunal on publication of the John Williams draft of the 2002 Iraq dossier, (1) whether on 9 September 2002 Mr. Williams was *(a)* present at a meeting and *(b)* a member of a group tasked with drafting a preliminary document described by that meeting as a 'draft assessment' to be used in the production of a draft dossier; and which other meetings he attended for the purpose of producing a draft dossier; [259731]

(2) whether *(a)* Mr. Williams and *(b)* any other communications official subsequently drafted any part of the dossier (i) on and (ii) after 9 September 2002; [259732]

(3) whether his Department holds a record of the identities of those officials who drafted any element of the 2002 Iraq dossier on 9 and 10 September 2002 prior to the despatch of a draft by John Scarlett to Alastair Campbell on the evening of 10 September 2002; [259733]

(4) who the authors were of the documents submitted by his Department to Lord Hutton's Inquiry and catalogued CAB/23/0005 to CAB/23/0014; which officials added handwritten notes to the documents; and *(a)* for what purpose and *(b)* on what date those documents were produced; [259734]

(5) whether the inclusion in the 2002 Iraq dossier of reference to intelligence suggesting that Iraq could launch weapons of mass destruction within 45 minutes

resulted from the discussion of the Joint Intelligence Committee's assessment of 9 September 2002 at a meeting of the dossier drafting group on the afternoon of 9 September 2002. [259783]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 27 February 2009]:* Matters relating to the weapons of mass destruction (WMD) dossier were examined in great detail by the inquiry led by Lord Hutton, Lord Butler's 'Review of Intelligence on Weapons of Mass Destruction' and the Intelligence and Security Committee's report 'Iraqi WMD—Intelligence and Assessments'.

Media Monitoring Unit

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what individual annual subscription fees were paid to the Media Monitoring Unit by each subscribing Government department, agency and non-departmental body in the most recent year for which figures are available. [250338]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Central Office of Information. I have asked the chief executive to reply.

Letter from Alan Bishop, dated 30 January 2009:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question [250338] listing what individual annual subscription fees were paid to the Media Monitoring Unit by each subscribing Government department, agency and non-departmental body in the most recent year for which figures are available.

These figures are listed in the following table.

2007-08

Customer Name	*Total (£)*
Attorney General's Office	12,500.00
Bank of England	9,400.00
Cabinet Office	18,500.00
Cabinet Office Communications	75,000.00
Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre	4,500.00
Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform	68,700.00
Department for Children, Schools and Families	68,700.00
Department for Communities and Local Government	75,000.00
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	62,700.00
Department for International Development	30,000.00
Department for Transport	68,700.00
Department for Work and Pensions	68,700.00
Department of Health	68,700.00
Food Standards Agency	22,150.00
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	118,500.00
Health and Safety Executive	17,500.00
Health Protection Agency	9,400.00
HM Revenue and Customs	25,000.00
Home Office	75,000.00
Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority	9,400.00
Judicial Communications Office for England and Wales	9,400.00
Metropolitan Police Service	17,125.00
Ministry of Defence	68,700.00
Ministry of Justice	37,500.00
Office of Government Commerce	9,400.00
OFSTED	9,400.00
Partnership for Schools	9,400.00
SOCA	9,400.00
Prime Minister's Office	84,000.00
Qualifications and Curriculum Authority	9,400.00
The Wales Office	9,400.00
HMT	68,700.00
Grand Total	1,249,875.00

Ministerial Responsibility

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to his evidence to the House of Lords Select Committee on Communications on 5 November 2008, question 568, what his definition of a substantial announcement is. [258708]

Mr. Byrne: I would define a substantial announcement as one which should be brought to the House first either via an oral or a written ministerial statement.

Public Sector: Internet

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many public sector websites with unique universal resource locators are in operation in England. [250506]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Central Office of Information. I have asked the chief executive to reply.

Letter from Alan Bishop, dated 13 January 2009:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question (250506) asking how many public sector websites with unique URLs are in operation in England.

Although we keep a register of all central government websites, it does not cover the wider public sector. As of end September 2008, Department Website Reviews have identified 1012 websites in operation by central government departments, executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies. This is the total number of websites identified minus the number of closed websites. Some will have multiple URLs, for example to handle misspellings or to guard against misrepresentation.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Bankruptcy: Cleveland

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many businesses in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency were declared bankrupt in each of the last 24 months. [260800]

Mr. McFadden: Self-employed traders may be declared bankrupt (or enter into an individual voluntary arrangement [IVA]), however, registered companies are the subject of liquidation (compulsory liquidation or creditors voluntary liquidation [CVL]).

It is not currently possible, from information held centrally in electronic format, to count the number of insolvent companies in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency.

However, the following table shows the number of self-employed bankruptcies in each month between October 2006 to December 2007.

Self-employed bankruptcies in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency

		Number
2006	October	1
	November	1
	December	0
2007	January	1
	February	1
	March	1
	April	3
	May	0
	June	1
	July	1
	August	1
	September	0
	October	3
	November	0
	December	1

Notes:

1. Classifying bankrupts into administrative geographies is done using the postcode the individual provides.
2. In particular, inaccurate or missing postcodes mean that the numbers in the above table will be subject to an element of missing data. Nationally, this proportion has been decreasing from about 12 per cent. in 2000 to less than 4 per cent. in 2007.
3. Figures are not yet available for 2008.
4. Changes were made to the part of the database used to capture information on trading status and consistent data is only available from October 2006 onwards.
5. Similar information is not available for individual voluntary arrangements entered into by the self-employed.

Business

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment he has made of levels of entrepreneurship culture in the UK fashion industry; what steps he plans to take to increase entrepreneurial activity in other industries; and if he will make a statement. [260326]

Barbara Follett: I have been asked to reply.

The Creative Economy Programme looked at these issues for all the creative industries, including designer fashion. As a result we are:

supporting the expansion of apprenticeships in the fashion industry through the Creative Economy Programme;

supporting the creation of a Couture Academy to address critical skills shortage areas;

funding the Centre for Fashion Enterprise to explore the feasibility of a hub to allow small designers to access competitively priced and high quality manufacturing.

The Government remain committed to making the UK the best place in the world to start and grow a business.

The UK business environment is recognised as among the best in the world, in particular:

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) says UK has lowest barriers to entrepreneurship of all OECD countries.

The World Bank ranks the UK second in Europe, and puts the UK in top 10 globally (out of 181 countries) in terms of ease of doing business.

Solutions for Business, the Government's streamlined portfolio of publicly-funded business support products and services, delivered via Business Link:

http://www.businesslink.gov.uk

provides comprehensive assistance to help companies start, grow and succeed.

Business; Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many companies in Wales have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* received loans from the European Investment Bank Group in each of the last six months. [261998]

Ian Pearson: The European Investment Bank (EIB) publishes data and status information on individual loans on its public website (www.eib.org). The status of a loan can fall into one of three stages:

(1) under appraisal;

(2) approved by the Board of Directors of the EIB; and

(3) signed by borrower and the EIB.

Departmental Art Works

Mr. Vara: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which works of art from the Government Art Collection each Minister in his Department has selected for display in a private office. [259444]

Mr. McFadden: The following items on loan from the Government Art Collection are displayed in BERR Ministers' offices:

Secretary of State, the right hon. Lord Mandelson:

Painting: Queen Elizabeth I (1563-1603) Reigned—Anon British artist

Painting: The Road—David Tindle

Print: Untitled Red—Lewin Bassingthwaite

Print: The Angels of Boulogne—Chris Orr

Painting: Circus Folk—David Bomberg

Minister for Employment and Postal Affairs, Pat McFadden

Painting: Snow in the Midlands—Evelyn Gibbs

Painting: Still Life with Fish—Mary Fedden

Painting: London Wall and St Giles Cripplegate—William J McLeod.

Departmental Data Protection

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether any data losses from his Department have occurred in the last six months; and if he will make a statement. [261146]

Mr. McFadden: In line with the Government's review of data handling procedures in Government and publication of its interim and final reports, the Department will cover information assurance issues, including any data loss incidents, in its Annual Report to Parliament.

Departmental ICT

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which ICT projects are being funded by his Department; and how much the *(a)* original estimate and *(b)* current expected outturn cost of each is. [261135]

Mr. McFadden: The current ICT projects being funded by Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform are as follows, with their original estimate and their current expected outturn costs:

HR Online—which is a new HR system for professional users and providing individual self-help services; estimated life-time cost £14 million up until 2012; current expected outturn cost £8 million development and £1.1 million per annum support and associated running costs.

SPIRE 3—enhancements to an existing system supporting export control; estimated life-time cost £1 million up until 2012; current expected outturn cost £897,000 development and £155,000 per annum support and associated running costs.

RITE—a system allowing remote and secure access to BERR's IT systems; estimated lifetime cost of £2.3 million up until 2012; current expected outturn cost £800,000 development and £641 per annum support and associated running costs.

Point of Single Contact—an EU directive project, funded by the EU; estimated development and implementation cost £1.6 million but with ongoing support costs still being negotiated with the supplier.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department has spent on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* food since its inception. [261171]

Mr. McFadden: This Department does not separately itemise spending on alcohol and food.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much capital spending is planned to be brought forward by his Department to *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [260608]

Mr. McFadden: This Department has no capital expenditure brought forward to 2008-09 or 2009-10 but the Regional Development Agencies (RDA) are bringing forward £97.6 million planned capital expenditure from 2010-11 to 2009-10 as part of the fiscal stimulus programme.

Fire Services: Working Hours

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions the Government have had within the Council of Ministers on the effect on retained firefighters of ending the UK's opt-out from the EU Working Time Directive. [261762]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 9 March 2009]:* The UK Government recognises that losing the individual's right to opt-out of the 48-hour working week as set by the Working Time Directive, would have a detrimental effect on the hours which firefighters working the retained duty system could be available for duty, especially the substantial numbers who work full time for their primary employer. Many other workers also use this important flexibility and so and we remain firmly of the view that this right should remain. We, along with a majority of other member states are fighting for the retention of the opt-out as this dossier progresses through the European negotiation process.

I am very aware of the widespread concern on this issue amongst retained firefighters, and both from my Department and the Department for Communities and Local Government have worked very closely with the Retained Firefighters' Union and will continue to keep them informed throughout the negotiations.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for North East Hampshire of 10 June 2008 on a constituent, Mr Richard Stevens. [255999]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 10 February 2009]:* I responded to the hon. Member on 3 March.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the Secretary of State plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Chelmsford of 24 November 2008 on his constituent, Mr Alan Briggs of Walford Place. [256515]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 12 February 2009]:* I responded to the hon. Member on 27 February.

Redundancy

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number of people made redundant, *(b)* number of statutory redundancy payments made and *(c)* average value of statutory redundancy payments in each (i) month of the last five years for which figures are available and (ii) year since 1997. [252919]

Mr. McFadden: The information is provided in the following tables.

(a) The Office for National Statistics' survey the number of people made redundant in the last three months in their quarterly Labour Force Survey. The following two tables show this information on a quarterly basis over the last five years and over the calendar year since 1997.

Quarterly UK redundancy numbers (ILO definition)

	Quarter	Number (Thousand)
2004	Q1	139
	Q2	148
	Q3	133
	Q4	144
Total		564
2005	Q1	134
	Q2	131
	Q3	160
	Q4	146
Total		571
2006	Q1	142
	Q2	139
	Q3	137
	Q4	134
Total		552
2007	Q1	145
	Q2	121
	Q3	129
	Q4	111
Total		506
2008		
	Q1	111
	Q2	127
	Q3	156
	Q4	259
Total		653

Source:
ONS Labour Market Statistics (BEAO)

Annual UK redundancy numbers (ILO definition)

	Number (Thousand)
1997	620
1998	677
1999	712
2000	677
2001	709
2002	741
2003	630
2004	564
2005	571
2006	552
2007	506
2008	653

Source:
ONS Labour Market Statistics (BEAO)

(b) and *(c)* no information is held on statutory redundancy payments made or the average value of payments.

Regional Development Agencies: Consultants

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2009 to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar, *Official Report*, column 1464W, on regional development agencies: consultants, if he will place in the Library a copy of the report and analysis produced by Linstock Communications for the National Secretariat of Regional Development Agencies. [259461]

Mr. McFadden: A copy of the report can not be placed in the Library of the House as the RDA National Secretariat is bound by the intellectual property and confidentiality clauses contained in the procurement contract with the consultant.

Regional Development Agencies: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the *(a)* budget and *(b)* administrative cost of each regional development agency (RDA) has been in each year since its creation; and what the estimated administrative cost of each RDA is for 2008-09. [252571]

Mr. McFadden: The RDAs' grant in aid and administration budgets from 1999 to 2007 is set out in the following tables. Also, the estimated 2008-09 administration budget of each RDA is given.

RDA Grant in aid budgets

£ million

	1999-2000	*2000-01*	*2000-0*	*2000-03*	*2000-04*	*2000-05*	*2000-06*	*2000-07*	*2000-08*
AWM	103	113	141	204	240	219	288	282	291
EEDA	30	36	55	88	80	84	130	139	134
EMDA	41	67	86	101	117	119	160	160	170
LDA	—	235	266	295	317	328	397	416	386
NWDA	141	156	270	274	309	367	384	402	390
ONE	92	98	158	193	223	226	245	273	276
SEEDA	63	73	97	112	136	113	167	172	162
SWRDA	43	62	85	103	99	113	151	171	156
YF	121	125	207	211	244	288	293	313	300

RDA Administration Budgets[1]

£000

	1999-2000	*2000-01*	*2000-0*	*2000-03*	*2000-04*	*2000-05*	*2000-06*	*2000-07*	*2000-08*	*2000-09*
AWM	9,200	11,884	13,023	15,616	18,199	21,050	21,311	20,535	20,992	24,491

RDA Administration Budgets[1]

£000

	1999-2000	2000-01	2000-0	2000-03	2000-04	2000-05	2000-06	2000-07	2000-08	2000-09
EEDA	4,414	5,493	7,038	9,099	9,847	11,061	12,909	15,873	17,092	16,968
EMDA	8,254	8,365	8,821	11,180	12,878	13,516	15,802	16,387	17,553	18,934
LDA	0	5,690	10,957	16,692	14,555	30,609	32,057	37,660	43,819	43,707
NWDA	10,868	13,224	16,219	43,098	58,063	30,585	25,680	38,841	34,281	38,378
ONE	16,583	15,990	16,658	18,875	22,024	22,239	23,748	24,828	24,727	28,149
SEEDA	6,817	8,533	10,469	14,591	19,274	20,138	22,340	24,339	26,146	24,109
SWRDA	9,084	8,800	9,577	15,794	17,919	17,756	20,697	23,065	24,385	26,414
YF	12,337	14,867	14,901	16,608	19,410	20,097	22,192	23,727	28,733	24,973

[1] Administration budgets include salaries
[2] Planned administration expenditure

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much each regional development agency spent on administration in the most recent year for which figures are available. [257550]

Mr. McFadden: The following table shows RDAs' administration spend for 2007-08.

RDA administration budgets 2007-08

RDA	£000
AWM	20,992
EEDA	17,092
EMDA	17,553
LDA	43,819
NWDA	34,281
ONE	24,727
SEEDA	26,146
SWRDA	24,385
YF	28,733

Union Modernisation Fund

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1319W, on the union modernisation fund, who the members of the Supervisory Board are; and what declaration of political activity each has made. [257529]

Mr. McFadden: The members of the Supervisory Board are:

Sir Bill Connor (Chair)

Bruce Warman

Professor Willy Brown, CBE

Jeannie Drake, CBE

Danny Carrigan

Adrian Askew

In addition two new board members have joined this month they are:

Professor David Gordon

David Lebrecht

At the time of their appointment, the members of the Union Modernisation Fund Supervisory Board declared the following interests:

Bill Connor declared that he had spoken on behalf of a party or candidate and canvassed on behalf of a party or helped at election (for the Labour party);

Adrian Askew declared that he had held office such as Chair, Treasurer or Secretary of a local branch of a party and canvassed on behalf of a party or helped at election (for the Labour party);

William Brown declared no political activity;

Danny Carrigan declared that he had canvassed on behalf of a party or helped at election and a member of the national executive committee (for the Labour party);

Jeannie Drake declared that she had canvassed on behalf of a party or helped at election and a member of the Labour Party National Policy Forum (for the Labour party);

David Metcalfe declared that he had canvassed on behalf of a party or helped at election and undertaken any political activity which is considered relevant (for the Labour party). David Metcalfe has subsequently resigned;

Bruce Wariman declared no political activity;

Professor David Gordon declared "I am a member of the Cooperative Party which aims to foster the agenda and activities of the cooperative movement in the UK. The Cooperative party is affiliated to the Labour party and also supports the woodcraft folk which is a youth movement/club which my daughter attends;"

David Lebrecht declared no political activity.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 12 March 2009

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Church of England: Finance

Norman Lamb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners whether the Church of England pension fund has rules to avoid making investments in companies involved in the sale, distribution and manufacturing of weapons and defence equipment. [262384]

Sir Stuart Bell: The investment decisions of the Church of England Pensions Board are informed by the work of the Church of England's Ethical Investment Advisory Group whose policy advice precludes investment in companies which supply defence platforms, weapons and weapons systems. Investment in non-offensive systems including avionics, radar, sonar, instrumentation, components, military IT and software, as well as refit and commissioning of military systems, is permitted under the policy advice as long as a company's exposure to such work is less than 25 per cent. of turnover.

Church of England: Pay

Norman Lamb: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners whether staff involved in management of the Church of England pension funds are eligible to receive bonuses for their work. [262519]

Sir Stuart Bell: Church of England Pensions Board staff do not receive bonuses. Staff employed at outside firms involved in the management of the Pensions Board's assets do receive annual bonuses based on their own performance and the profitability of their employers.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Security

Mr. Ames: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many security passes to the Palace of Westminster were issued in each category in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [261444]

Nick Harvey: Between 4 March 2008 and 4 March 2009, a total of 10,413 parliamentary passes were issued across 26 different categories. These figures include new passes and those issued as replacements due to loss, damage, expiry or change of post. The following table summarises the six main categories of pass:

Pass category	*Number issued February 2008 to February 2009*
Members	138
Peers	177
Staff of Members and Peers	2,297
Staff of the two Houses	2,690
Government Department staff	2,342
Other categories	2,769

TRANSPORT

A3: Hindhead

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his most recent estimate is of the cost of the A3 Hindhead improvement *(a)* with and *(b)* without twin-bored tunnels under the Devil's Punch Bowl; and how much is expected to come from public funds. [262268]

Paul Clark: The latest estimate for the A3 Hindhead improvement currently being contracted is £371 million, of which all is to come from public funds. There is no estimate for a scheme without the twin-bored tunnels under the Devil's Punch Bowl.

Aviation: Carbon Emissions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) if he will bring forward proposals to give legal force to the target to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from UK aviation to below 2005 levels by 2050; [261186]

(2) whether aircraft emissions will apply *(a)* in total and *(b)* net of trading and offsetting for the target to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from UK aviation to below 2005 levels by 2050. [261187]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In announcing its target to bring UK aviation carbon dioxide emissions in 2050 below 2005 levels, the Government asked the Committee on Climate Change to advise on the best basis for its development. The committee is due to report by December 2009. Once the Government have received the committee's advice, they will determine the best basis for taking the target forward.

Aviation: Fuels

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport in the light of the incident at Birmingham airport on 14 May 2008, what steps he is taking to ensure that aviation fuel is not contaminated by biofuel. [262562]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Aviation fuel supplied to aircraft must be fit for purpose. Ultimately, fuel companies are responsible for supplying fuel to their airline customers which is within specification and they have arrangements in place to deliver this. Procedures for handling aviation fuel at airports and other aviation fuel facilities have been developed by the Joint Inspection Group, a Joint Venture company formed in 2002 by fuel supply companies.

Following the Birmingham airport incident last May, fuel suppliers carried out a detailed investigation and took appropriate corrective action. The Joint Inspection Group issued revised handling procedures and recommendations which were endorsed by the International Air Transport Association and circulated internationally.

Government Departments including the Department for Transport, Department of Energy and Climate Change, and the Ministry of Defence, are working closely with stakeholders in the fuel supply industry, aircraft engine and airframe manufacturers, airport operators, airlines, and safety regulators to track developments towards a higher permissible biodiesel component level, monitor developments with testing methods, and monitor the application of the existing testing regime in the aviation fuel supply chain.

Bus Services: Northumberland

Mr. Ronnie Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much Government subsidy Northumberland county council is receiving for bus transport in 2008-09. [254913]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport supports the provision of bus services by means of rural bus subsidy grant, which is now paid to local authorities as part of their area-based funding. £859,321 has been allocated to Northumberland county council in 2008-09.

In addition, the council has received £56,517 in 2008-09 for the Plus 518 Rural Bus Challenge (RBC) programme.

Local authorities also support local bus services using funds from the Department for Communities and Local Government's formula grant.

The council has been allocated integrated transport capital funding of £3.3 million for 2008-09. Allocations are not ring-fenced and local transport authorities have discretion to spend their allocations in line with their priorities, including on bus transport.

Catalytic Converters

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number and percentage of catalytic converters in the UK which meet the emissions standards required by EU Regulations 715/2007 and 692/2008 on vehicle emissions. [261402]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Based on information supplied by the replacement catalyst industry, the Department's impact assessment on draft regulations which will implement Article 11 of EU Regulation No 715/2007 assumes that 80 per cent. of replacement catalytic converters sold in the UK in recent years do not currently meet the original type approval emissions standard. For the vehicles which are subject to the Regulation's replacement catalyst requirements (petrol cars and vans meeting Euro 3 and 4 emissions standards) an overall catalyst replacement rate of 5 per cent. per annum is assumed. On this basis some 127,350 replacement catalytic converters are estimated to have met the original standard in 2008. A copy of the impact assessment may be found at:

www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/openconsultations

Departmental Absenteeism

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff of his Department were recorded absent for non-medical reasons on *(a)* 2 February 2009 and *(b)* 3 February 2009; what estimate he has made of the (i) cost to his Department and (ii) number of working hours lost as a result of such absence; and what guidance his Department issued to staff in respect of absence on those days. [260577]

Mr. Hoon: Non-medical absence is managed locally so this information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many contracts *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have which allow contractors to store personal data of UK citizens overseas; for which contracts this applies; in which countries the data for each contract are held; and how many people have their data stored overseas in the case of each such contract. [261350]

Mr. Hoon: The following table lists the information readily available. It represents the current position and details are liable to change as, for instance, new contracts are signed, or old ones end. The table provides a summary of three contracts let out by the Department and three by its agencies, where the Department is the data controller, that involve storing data overseas.

Description of the contract and in which country	*Approximate number of citizens who have their data stored overseas*
Pearson Driving Assessments Limited processes and backs up personal data on theory test candidates in the US on behalf of the Driving Standards Agency (DSA).	[1] 4,900,374
Highways Agency (HA) uses Gallup for staff satisfaction surveys, some personal data on HA staff are stored in the US for conducting the survey purposes.	3,500
The Department contracts Siemens to deliver a public inquiry service the back-up arrangements for which include the storage of staff business contact details by RightNow Technologies in the US.	2,300
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) have contracted with PricewaterhouseCoopers to conduct staff surveys. Staff's personal data are stored in Germany	217
The Department has a contract with Bravo Solutions who use Asite Ltd. to run a web-based system for tendering purposes. Data are held in the UK and backed-up to the US.	149
The Department are using GeoStats for conducting a survey of travel patterns of individuals who have volunteered to take part. The data collected will be processed by GeoStats in the US for up to 6 months before being returned to the main UK contractor	Up to 150

[1] As of 17 December 2008.

Departmental Manpower

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many headcount additions above the agreed headcount target in the Gershon Review have been made in his Department since 2004. [262418]

Mr. Hoon: The Gershon review set headcount reduction targets for the central Department and the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, to be met by 31 March 2008. Both of these areas successfully met their targets and the latest figures indicate that their headcount remains within the agreed levels.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been claimed in reimbursable expenses by special advisers in his Department in 2008-09 to date. [260339]

Mr. Hoon: Costs incurred on reimbursable expenses in 2008-09, will be available only when the Department for Transport's resource accounts are fully audited and laid before Parliament. This is expected to be before the 2009 summer recess.

Departmental Public Appointments

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information his Department holds on the number of persons appointed to executive positions in bodies for which his Department has responsibility in the last five years who perviously had careers in the banking industry. [261225]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport does not hold this information centrally. The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has provided voice coaching to any of its employees in the last 12 months. [260644]

Mr. Hoon: 12 members of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency staff attended a media skills course, which involved training in how to speak for radio and TV. No other instances of voice coaching were recorded by the Department for Transport and its agencies in the last 12 months.

Departmental Video Conferencing

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many meetings *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers and *(c)* departmental officials undertook using teleconferencing equipment in 2008. [262459]

Mr. Hoon: A total of 216 video conferences were held in the Department for Transport (Central) in 2008, but no records are kept of the individuals attending so the breakdown requested cannot be supplied. No figures are available for the agencies as they do not keep records of usage.

No details are available for telephone conference usage as records are not kept.

The Department for Transport and its agencies encourage the use of both video conferencing and telephone conference facilities as a first option, in order to save time and travelling expenses where possible.

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much expenditure was incurred in respect of overseas visits which *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers in his Department and *(c)* his Department's senior officials undertook in 2008. [262172]

Mr. Hoon: Since 1999, the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the financial year 2007-08 was published on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 102WS, and for the first time, included details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All travel by Ministers is undertaken in accordance with the "Ministerial Code".

The Department for Transport does not record travel expenses for senior officials separately from those for other staff. The information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Diesel Trains Limited

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library *(a)* the (i) memorandum of association and (ii) articles of association of Diesel Trains Limited and *(b)* a copy of each letter to industry partners referred to in his Department's press release of 5 March 2009 on the establishment of the company. [262387]

Paul Clark: A copy of the Memorandum of Association of Diesel Trains Ltd. has been placed in the Library. The company took standard "Table A" articles of association from the Companies (Table A to F) Regulations 1985 as amended.

A copy of the letter to industry partners has been placed in the Library. The letter is also available on the Department's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/pi/purchase.pdf

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the names are of the *(a)* directors and *(b)* other members of senior management of Diesel Trains Limited. [262388]

Paul Clark: The interim directors of Diesel Trains Ltd. are Bob Linnard and Caroline Low. The permanent directors and senior management have not yet been appointed.

Driving Offences: Insurance

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many people were killed in car accidents involving uninsured drivers in each year since 1997; [263158]

(2) how many people were injured in car accidents involving uninsured drivers in each year since 1997; [263159]

(3) how many car accidents involving uninsured drivers there have been in each year since 1997. [263160]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is not available.

Great Western Railway: Electrification

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to make a decision on whether to electrify the Great Western line. [262362]

Paul Clark: There is already a commitment to provide electric trains between London and Maidenhead under the Crossrail programme, with the opportunity to extend such services to Reading.

The Department for Transport is working closely with the rail industry to examine the costs and benefits of further electrification of the Great Western Main Line. A decision on electrification will be announced later this year.

Heathrow Airport

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport in relation to the Ministerial reporting contained in the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport responses to public consultation, on what basis the 161 key stakeholders were determined; which organisations and individuals the key stakeholders were; and if he will make a statement. [262250]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 10 March 2009]:* As explained on page 150 of the 'Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport: Report on consultation responses', the 161 individuals and organisations listed include stakeholders who responded to the consultation having had the consultation document sent to them and a small number of other respondents who sent back detailed and in depth responses.

Level Crossings: Accidents

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* injuries and *(b)* deaths have occurred in accidents on railway crossings in (i) Essex and (ii) the UK in each year since 1998. [261776]

Paul Clark: The following data are based on incidents reported to the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR), under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR 95). Figures for 2008 are provisional and may change with the receipt of coroners' findings for inquests that are currently outstanding.

Table 1: Fatalities and injuries at level crossings, 1998 to 2008[1], excluding trespassers and suicides, Great Britain

	Fatalities		Injuries		Total	
	GB	Essex	GB	Essex	GB	Essex
1998	13	0	40	2	53	2
1999	11	0	26	1	37	1
2000	13	2	28	3	41	5
2001	10	0	20	0	30	0
2002	14	0	32	2	46	2
2003	16	0	26	0	42	0
2004	16	0	64	2	80	2
2005	15	2	21	2	36	4
2006	8	0	28	1	36	1
2007	11	0	14	0	25	0
2008[1]	15	1	27	2	42	3

Table 2: Fatalities and injuries to trespassers and suicides at level crossings, 1998 to 2008[1], Great Britain

	Fatalities		Injuries		Total	
	GB	Essex	GB	Essex	GB	Essex
1998	12	1	0	1	12	2
1999	8	1	0	0	8	1
2000	9	0	2	0	11	0
2001	10	0	3	0	13	0
2002	13	1	0	0	13	1
2003	15	0	0	0	15	0
2004	12	1	1	0	13	1
2005	20	2	3	0	23	2
2006	19	0	0	0	19	0
2007	17	0	0	0	17	0
2008[1]	15	0	2	1	17	1

[1] Provisional figures.

The data cover incidents at level crossings in Great Britain.

M25

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made on the road widening projects on sections *(a)* 2, *(b)* 4 and *(c)* 5 of the M25. [261608]

Paul Clark: In January 2009 we published "Britain's Transport Infrastructure: Motorways and Major Trunk Roads". This confirmed that we expect to deliver improvements to M25 section 2 (between junctions 23-27) and M25 section 5 (between junctions 5-7) using hard shoulder running with construction work expected to commence within the period 2012 to 2015, subject to the availability of funding and completion of necessary statutory procedures.

Section 4 (between junctions 27-30) is included as a widening scheme within the M25 Design, Build, Finance and Operate (DBFO) Contract currently in the final stages of negotiation. Subject to satisfactory conclusion of contract negotiations and funding arrangements it is expected that Section 4 widening will commence in July 2009 and complete before the Olympics in 2012.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which of the remaining sections of road identified for widening in the London Orbital Multi-Modal Study are planned to be widened via *(a)* conventional road widening and *(b)* hard shoulder running. [261609]

Paul Clark: Subject to the completion of contract negotiations and funding arrangements for the M25 DBFO procurement, we are planning to widen M25 section 1 (between junctions 16-23) and M25 section 4 (between junctions 27-30) as conventional road widening schemes. As my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Transport announced in "Britain's Transport Infrastructure: Motorways and Major Trunk Roads" published on 15 January 2009, we expect to deliver improvements to M25 section 2 (between junctions 23-27) and M25 section 5 (between junctions 5-7) using hard shoulder running. Improvements to M25 section 3 (between junctions 1b-3) have been completed as a conventional widening scheme.

Motor Vehicles: Exhaust Emissions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what costs have been incurred by the Government in the transposition of EU Regulations 715/2007 and 692/2008 on vehicle emissions. [261403]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Other than the costs of preparing UK regulations to implement the EU regulation, the main cost on Government will be the cost of enforcing the requirement that replacement pollution control devices may only be sold if they have an appropriate type approval. These costs are estimated as a one-off set-up cost of £55,000 plus an annual cost of £110,000 rising to £114,000.

Enforcement will be carried out by the Vehicle Certification Agency.

Railways Stations

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which towns in England with populations of 50,000 or more do not have a railway station. [261629]

Paul Clark: The following towns in England, which have a population of 50,000 or more, do not have a railway station:

Gosport;
Halesowen;
Newcastle-under-Lyme;
Washington; and
Waterlooville.

Railways: Employment

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Answer of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2132W on railways: employment, with which train operators he has had discussions on these matters in the last six months. [261511]

Paul Clark: Ministers in the Department for Transport have met representatives of all the franchised passenger train operating companies in recent weeks to discuss the effects of current economic conditions on their operations.

Railways: Fees and Charges

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with train operating companies on the likely effects of the current economic situation on levels of *(a)* unregulated rail fares and *(b)* station car parking charges. [261627]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has regular meetings with train operators about all matters relating to train operator performance—including the levels of unregulated fares and car park charges from time to time, though these are commercial matters entirely for train operators.

Railways: Franchises

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what dates he has met representatives of the Association of Train Operating Companies to discuss operators' ability to meet existing franchise payments in the last six months. [262647]

Paul Clark: Ministers meet with the Association of Train Operating Companies regularly to discuss a range of issues. The specific issue of train operators' ability to meet franchise payments has not been raised.

Railways: Passengers

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what targets his Department has adopted for passenger numbers on the railway in the next 12 months. [262646]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not have any targets which are expressed in terms of passenger numbers on the railway. The capacity and loading metrics which the Department intends to deliver by 2014 are set out in the High Level Output Specification which was published by the Department in July 2007, alongside the White Paper, "Delivering a Sustainable Railway".

Progress on achieving the Department's public service agreements and objectives was set out in the autumn performance report 2008, which is available on the DFT website at

http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/publications/apr/ap/autumn performance08.pdf.

Railways: Plastics

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what specification his Department has established for the use on the rail network of sleepers made from 100 per cent. recycled plastic; [260962]

(2) what procurement process *(a)* his Department and (b) Network Rail followed for the purchase of 100 per cent. recycled plastic sleepers for use on the rail network. [260963]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not hold the information requested.

The procurement of sleepers is an operational matter for Network Rail as the owner and operator of the national rail network. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's Chief Executive at the following address for a response to his questions:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
Kings Place
90 York Way
London, N1 9AG

Railways: Repairs and Maintenance

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department was consulted by Network Rail before that company decided to alter its work programme for 2009; and if he will make a statement. [261404]

Paul Clark: This is an operational matter for Network Rail. Network Rail's spending programmes for Control Period 4 are agreed with the Office of Rail Regulation, which will independently continue to monitor the work.

Railways: Tickets

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department plans to take to minimise the cost of rail travel for regular passengers. [262927]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport recently commissioned research from Passenger Focus on the perception of value for money of rail fares. This specifically addressed commuter travel. The final report, conclusions and recommendations were published on 19 February. Ministers are meeting with the Association of Train Operating Companies later this month to discuss which Passenger Focus recommendations can be taken forward at this time and how best to do this.

The Government have also recently confirmed that existing rail fare policy will not change. The annual cap on increases in regulated fares (RPI+1 per cent. in most cases) will still apply even if there is a negative RPI in July. This could result in rail fares going down in January 2010.

Rolling Stock

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the statement of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1531-33, on new trains (investment), how many jobs in the supply chain to provide new rolling stock for the East Coast and Great Western main lines will be in the UK. [260011]

Paul Clark: Agility expects 500 of the 2,500 direct jobs to be with major UK suppliers and expect that up to 10,000 jobs will be protected in the indirect, supply chain.

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the statement of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1531-33, on new trains (investment), what assessment he has made of the effect of World Trade Organisation treaty obligations on UK and European suppliers competing for railway rolling stock tenders in Japan. [260014]

Paul Clark: The European Commission has highlighted the difficulties of entry for non-Japanese companies into the Japanese rail market. I understand that there are a small number of European trains and train components in Japan, and that there is the potential for more, although this is likely to require significant investment on the part of any potential market entrants. The Foreign Office continues to work with the European Commission—which takes the lead in this area—to review the issue of barriers to market.

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Statement of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1531-3, on new trains (investment), whether UK and European rail companies are able to bid for railway rolling stock tenders in Japan. [260015]

Paul Clark: UK and European rail industry suppliers are able to bid for railway rolling stock tenders in Japan, although the European Commission estimates that around 98 per cent. of procurements are not competitively tendered.

Severn Bridge: Tolls

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent progress has been made on introducing facilities for payment of Severn crossing tolls by credit and debit card. [262969]

Paul Clark: A working group commissioned to look into the feasibility of payment at the Severn River Crossings by electronic means presented its findings in October 2008 to the Highways Agency's chief executive. The Highways Agency is considering its response and is in discussion with Severn River Crossings Plc on the way forward.

Speed Limits

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew) of 20 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1307W, on speed limits, what progress his Department has made towards creating a national digital road map of speed limits for use with satellite navigation devices; when he expects the national digital road map of speed limits will be completed; and if he will make a statement. [263156]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We are consulting with stakeholders involved in collecting, managing and using data on how best to record information about speed limits and will be testing our recommended approach through trials of a form of voluntary Intelligent Speed Adaptation as part of our Road Safety Partnership Grant programme, announced on 4 March 2009.

We anticipate publishing the data schema for traffic authorities to use within the next 12 months.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew) of 20 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1307W, on speed limits, what recent meetings he has had with car manufacturers and other stakeholders on facilitating the availability of intelligent speed adaptation. [263157]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Secretary of State for Transport has had no recent meetings with car manufacturers and other stakeholders specifically on the subject of intelligent speed adaptation.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to answer question 245350, tabled on 15 December 2008, on personal data stored overseas. [261529]

Mr. Hoon: A reply has been given to the hon. Member today.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Energy: Prices

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what records he holds on the cost of energy to *(a)* industry and *(b)* domestic users in the UK compared to such costs in each other EU member state. [263100]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Domestic and industrial retail prices for gas and electricity for EU member states are published in section 5 of "Quarterly Energy Prices", the latest edition of which was published in December 2008 and is available online at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/energy/statistics/publications/prices/index.html

Estimates for July to December 2008 show that domestic gas and electricity prices in the UK, including taxes, were the lowest and fifth lowest in the EU15 respectively. Since 1998, UK domestic gas prices have been among the lowest in the EU15, and UK domestic electricity prices have generally been below the EU15 median price.

For industry, estimated prices, including taxes, for July to December 2008 showed that gas prices were below the EU15 median. For electricity, estimated prices were above the EU15 median. Historically, electricity prices to industrial users have been below the EU average, and up to January 2006 industrial electricity prices were no higher than the EU average except for the very largest energy consumers.

Industrial Injuries: Compensation

Mr. Denis Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many respiratory disease claims received under the coal health compensation scheme from residents of Wansbeck constituency were awaiting settlement at the latest date for which figures are available. [252568]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: There are 243 chronic obstructive pulmonary disease claims in the Wansbeck constituency that remain to be settled under the coal health compensation scheme as at 25 January 2009.

Low Carbon Buildings Programme: Northumberland

Mr. Denis Murphy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many grant applications the Low Carbon Buildings programme has received from households in *(a)* Wansbeck constituency and *(b)* the county of Northumberland. [252565]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: To date, applications received by the Low Carbon Buildings based on the six council areas within Northumberland were as follows:

Local authority	*Number*
Alnwick	15
Berwick-upon-Tweed	5
Blyth Valley	7
Castle Morpeth	21
Tynedale	37
Wansbeck	4
Grand total	89

Nordic Council

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the Nordic Council on energy supply. [263023]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State regularly meets Energy Ministers from Nordic States in the EU Energy Council, most recently on 19 February 2009. I last met the Norwegian Energy Minister in Oslo on 13 October 2008, where we discussed a range of energy related issues.

Nuclear Power: Public Consultation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the public's attitudes towards the Government's policy on nuclear power. [263085]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department has not commissioned or evaluated any research on the public's attitudes towards the Government's policy on nuclear power since the White Paper was published in January 2008.

As part of the 2007 public consultation on the future of nuclear power in the UK, the Government did carry out deliberative research. The results of this research are available at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/whitepaper/consultations/nuclearpower2007/page39554.html

In addition, the Government have conducted a number of further consultations on the steps it is taking to facilitate new nuclear.

Renewable Energy: EC Action

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Southampton, Test (Dr. Whitehead) of 22 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 886, on a European supergrid, what discussions he has had with Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers on the international co-operation required for such an infrastructure project. [253798]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 4 February 2009]:* Climate Change and Energy Ministers are responsible for discussions with the European Commission and other EU member states on a European supergrid.

The idea of a European supergrid could help member states meet climate change and energy goals. However, this type of project involves many difficult cross-border regulatory and jurisdictional issues which will require significant effort to resolve and will take time to do so. It is also unclear what cost implications would be for UK consumers of this project relative to other options to secure energy supplies.

DECC officials are currently in discussions with the European Commission on their proposals, to share our experience on offshore transmission and ensure UK objectives are met in any developments on this project.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Television: Licensing

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his most recent estimate of the number of people liable to pay but not paying a television licence fee is; and if he will make a statement. [262369]

Andy Burnham: This is a matter for the BBC; the BBC has advised that it does not hold a record of the specific number of people liable for but not paying a television licence fee, but it has calculated the evasion rate to be 5.1 per cent.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Crown Prosecution Service

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Solicitor-General pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1858W, what circumstances are covered by the category described as essential legal element missing; and if she will make a statement. [258705]

The Solicitor-General: Each criminal offence is made up of a number of elements which constitute the essence of the offence. For example, a person is guilty of theft when he or she dishonestly appropriates property belonging to another with the intention of permanently depriving the other of it. Each of these elements, 'dishonestly', 'property', 'belonging to another' and 'with the intention of permanently depriving the other of it', as defined within the Theft Act 1968, and evidence to establish each element must be present and proved beyond reasonable doubt if the court is to record a conviction for an offence of theft is to be proved.

All cases conducted by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) are subject to a process of continuous review under the terms of the Code for Crown Prosecutors (the Code). The review process requires the prosecutor to be satisfied first that the evidential test is met—that is that there is sufficient reliable admissible evidence for there to be a realistic prospect of securing a conviction for the offence alleged; and, second, that the public interest requires a prosecution. If the prosecutor ascertains at any stage that a legal element of an offence is missing, then the case no longer meets the evidential test required under the Code, and the prosecution cannot continue.

It is the duty of Crown prosecutors to ensure that the right person is prosecuted for the right offence and, in doing so, they must always act in the interests of justice and not solely for the purpose of obtaining a conviction. Five years ago, the Government introduced the Statutory Charging arrangements which ensured that a CPS prosecutor must authorise the charge for a range of more serious offences that were previously charged by the police. This has led to significant reductions in the number of cases discontinued after charge, because prosecutors will not have authorised charges in cases which do not meet the requirements of the Code, including those cases where an essential legal element is missing.

While the CPS seeks to minimise discontinuance, and has made major strides in recent years in reducing the number and the proportion of cases which result in an unsuccessful outcome, there will always be cases in which circumstances may change and either the evidence available or expected, or the public interest no longer supports a prosecution. In these circumstances, the decision not to proceed best serves the cause of justice.

Crown Prosecution Service: Empty Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Solicitor-General what the estimated cost in empty property business rates for the vacant properties recorded on the e-PIMS database owned by the Crown Prosecution Service is in 2008-09. [258534]

The Solicitor-General: During 2008-09, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) had three vacant premises on which it paid rates. The estimated total cost of this was £105,730.

Torture

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Solicitor-General when the Attorney-General's report on allegations of UK complicity in torture of detainees abroad will be finalised. [263151]

The Solicitor-General: After undertaking a preliminary review of the material referred to her, the Attorney-General took the view that she should seek the advice of the Director of Public Prosecutions. All the material provided to her has been made available to him. At this stage, no decision has been reached and it would be premature to speculate as to the outcome of the Attorney-General's consideration, nor is it possible to give a precise time scale. There is a substantial quantity of material to consider. Some of it is very highly classified and must be handled under the most secure of conditions. It is being thoroughly considered by the Director who is progressing this important work with his expert prosecutors within the CPS. The Attorney-General has said that she intends to report to Parliament on her assessment. What can be said at any given stage may depend upon a number of factors, such as the need to avoid prejudicing any police investigation and potential prosecution and the need to protect national security. She will continue to do everything she properly can to bring this matter to an expeditious conclusion.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Rail Travel

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the cost of travel by train by staff in his Department was in each year since 1997. [261212]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. Since that date the total cost of travel by train by staff is as follows:

£

	SO and OAG	*SO only*
1999-2000	29,919	—
2000-01	39,635	—
2001-02	—	33,096
2002-03	—	45,023
2003-04	—	34,844
2004-05	—	27,107
2005-06	—	34,046
2006-07	—	40,470
2007-08	—	35,373

The Civil Service Management Code sets outs regulations and instructions to Departments and agencies regarding the terms and conditions of service of civil servants and the delegations which have been made by the Minister for the Civil Service under the Civil Service (Management of Functions) Act 1992 together with the conditions attached to those delegations.

PRIME MINISTER

10 Downing Street: Internet

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister for what reasons the Downing Street website no longer hosts video footage of Prime Minister's Questions. [258376]

The Prime Minister: Video footage of Prime Minister's Questions is available on the Parliament website:

http://www.parliamentlive.tv

Colombia: Military Aid

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Prime Minister whether the *(a)* work and *(b)* funding of UK counter-narcotics operations in Colombia have been discussed at meetings of the Joint Intelligence Committee in the last three years. [262580]

The Prime Minister: The Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC) co-ordinates inter-departmental intelligence assessments on a range of issues of immediate and long-term importance to national interests; these are primarily in the fields of security, defence and foreign affairs.

As is the practice of previous governments, I will not comment further on the specific work of the JIC.

Israel

Mr. Amess: To ask the Prime Minister if he will place in the Library a copy of his speech to the Knesset on 21 July 2008; who drafted the speech; and if he will make a statement. [263246]

The Prime Minister: A transcript of my speech to the Knesset is available on the No. 10 website:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page16423

A copy has also been placed in the Library of the House. I am responsible for the content of my speeches.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Prime Minister whom he met during his visit to the State of Israel in July 2008; if he will place in the Library a copy of his itinerary for the visit; and if he will make a statement. [263247]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 23 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 555W.

Israel: Anniversaries

Mr. Amess: To ask the Prime Minister whether he received a request from the government of Israel to make a speech at the Embassy of Israel 60th Anniversary Reception; and if he will make a statement. [261582]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2136W.

Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister whether matters in respect of *(a)* the entry into disarmament negotiations of UK and US nuclear weapons and *(b)* prospects for the review conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty were discussed during his recent visit to the United States; [261540]

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Prime Minister if he will discuss with the President of the United States the matters of *(a)* the proposed expansion of NATO to include Ukraine and Georgia and *(b)* nuclear disarmament; and if he will make a statement. [261856]

The Prime Minister: I discussed a wide range of issues with President Obama; I refer the hon. Members to the joint press briefing I gave with President Obama, a transcript of which is available on the No. 10 website:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page18514.

A copy has also been placed in the Library of the House.

Orders and Regulations

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister how many Orders in Council have been passed by Ministers using Privy Council powers since he took office as Prime Minister. [258375]

The Prime Minister: Information on Order in Council passed is available on the Privy Council website:

http://www.privy-council.org.uk/output/Page473.asp

US Congress

Mr. Amess: To ask the Prime Minister (1) on what date he was invited to address a joint meeting of the US Congress; who invited him; and if he will make a statement; [261524]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* the first and *(b)* the final draft of his speech to the United States Congress on 4 March 2009; who drafted the speech; what input Ministers in his Government had to the speech; and if he will make a statement. [263266]

The Prime Minister: I was invited to speak to the United States Congress by the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives (Nancy Pelosi) during her visit to Downing street in March 2008. A transcript of my speech is available on the No. 10 website:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page18506

A copy has also been placed in the Library of the House. I am responsible for the content of my speeches.

USA

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Prime Minister what the cost to the public purse of his recent visit to Washington DC was; and if he will make a statement; [262256]

Mr. Amess: To ask the Prime Minister how many persons accompanied him on his visit to the United States; where he stayed on the visit; which *(a)* Senators and *(b)* members of Congress he met during his stay; if he will place in the Library a copy of the itinerary for the visit; and if he will make a statement. [263267]

The Prime Minister: Since 1999 the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. Copies of these lists are available in the Library of the House. Information on the number of officials accompanying Ministers on overseas visits is included in the list. Information for the financial year 2008-09 will be published in the usual manner.

USA: Official Gifts

Mr. Amess: To ask the Prime Minister (1) how many gifts given to him by the President of the United States during his recent visit will be *(a)* purchased by him and *(b)* held by 10 Downing Street; and if he will make a statement; [263245]

(2) what gifts he (a) gave to and (b) received from President Obama during his visit to the United States; what the estimated value is of each; and if he will make a statement. [263268]

The Prime Minister: The Government have published annual lists of gifts received and given by Ministers in an official capacity valued at more than £140 since 2001. Copies of the lists are available in the Libraries of the House. The list makes clear which gifts are held by Government Departments. The arrangements for the handling of gifts are set out in chapter 7 of the Ministerial Code. Information for the current financial year will be published in the usual way.

World Economic Forum

Anne Main: To ask the Prime Minister which hotels he stayed in during the World Economic Forum between 28 January and 1 February 2009; and at what cost. [260562]

The Prime Minister: Since 1999 the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year. Copies of these lists are available in the Library of the House. Information for the financial year 2008-09 will be published in the usual manner.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many and what percentage of letters sent by his Department were given to *(a)* the Royal Mail and *(b)* another postal services provider for delivery in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [259976]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office does not keep a record of the number of letters sent, however I can advise that Royal Mail is used predominantly over any other postal services provider.

Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on staff surveys in each of the last five years; and which companies were contracted to carry out the surveys. [260254]

Paul Goggins: In the last five years the Northern Ireland Office (excluding agencies and executive non-departmental public bodies) has conducted two staff surveys, one in 2004 and the other in 2006. These were delivered internally but the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency were paid £2,891 in 2004 and £3,107 in 2006 to analyse the responses from the surveys.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking in Afghanistan to increase levels of support from the Afghan public for NATO troops. [258638]

Mr. Hutton: The UK and our ISAF partners are in Afghanistan at the invitation of the democratically elected Government of Afghanistan. Our experience on the ground is that ordinary Afghans welcome the progress that has been made since our deployment.

A recent BBC poll has indicated the majority of Afghans support US and international forces, and there is strong opposition to the Taliban and violent insurgency.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with international counterparts on levels of NATO deployment in Southern Afghanistan in the next two years; and if he will make a statement. [259455]

Mr. Hutton: I have regular discussions with my international counterparts on the NATO mission in Afghanistan. We keep UK force levels under constant review to ensure commanders have the capabilities they need to complete their tasks.

President Obama has recently announced the deployment of an additional 17,000 US troops to Afghanistan, the majority of which will be deployed to the south. Currently, there are around 56,000 ISAF troops in Afghanistan, of which approximately 22,000 are based in Regional Command (South).

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* medals for gallantry in the face of the enemy, *(b)* gallantry medals in other situations and *(c)* mentions in despatches were awarded in each of the Operation Herrick deployments. [263161]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Details of gallantry awards bestowed for Operation Herrick over the period October 2001 to September 2008 are shown in the following table:

Operation Herrick	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Victoria Cross	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
George Cross	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Conspicuous Gallantry Cross	4	0	0	0	3	4	3
Distinguished Service Order	2	0	0	0	3	5	3
Distinguished Service Cross	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Military Cross	7	0	1	1	11	33	35
Distinguished Flying Cross	3	0	0	0	4	4	4

Operation Herrick	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Air Force Cross	0	0	0	2	0	0	1
George Medal	2	0	0	0	1	1	2
Queen's Gallantry Medal	0	0	0	0	1	4	3
Mention in Dispatches	15	0	1	0	30	57	84
Queen's Commendation Bravery	2	1	4	0	5	2	5
Queen's Commendation Bravery in the Air	0	0	0	0	4	0	0

The Victoria Cross, Conspicuous Gallantry Cross, Distinguished Service Cross, Military Cross, Distinguished Flying Cross and Mentions in Despatches are awarded for gallantry in active operations.

The George Cross, George Medal, Queen's Gallantry Medal, Air Force Cross, Queen's Commendation Bravery and Queen's Commendation Bravery in the Air are civilian or non-operational gallantry awards although these may still be awarded in theatre.

The Distinguished Service Order is awarded for command/leadership in active operations.

Armed Forces: Training

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons his Department is seeking to extend its initial commitment to underwrite risk reduction activity in the Defence Training Review; what assessment he has made of the likely effects on the timetable for the approval of such an extension of the tabling of Early Day Motion 872 on Contingent Liability on Defence Review Training Costs; and if he will make a statement. [262972]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The reasons for seeking to extend the risk reduction activity for Package 1 of the Defence Training Review were given in my answer of 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 174W. The tabling of EDM 872 will have no effect on the timetable for the approval of the contingent liability.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who took the decision to use the manoeuvrable WMIK vehicle as a convoy patrol vehicle; and when that decision was taken. [261030]

Mr. Hutton: The WMIK is used as a convoy patrol vehicle when operational commanders deem it to be a suitable vehicle for this role. The decision is taken by the operational commander in theatre on a case by case basis. The WMIK was first deployed to Afghanistan in 2006 and has been used as a convoy patrol vehicle since then.

Defence: Finance

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment he has made of the effect of funding for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan on the Royal Navy's budget for procurement of *(a)* aircraft carriers and *(b)* destroyers; [262797]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect of funding for ongoing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan on the Royal Air Force's budget for procurement of *(a)* Eurofighter Typhoons and *(b)* replacement Harriers. [262823]

Mr. Hutton: The Department does not currently anticipate any impact on current procurement programmes arising from the costs of operations, as the MOD claims from the Reserve the net additional costs of military operations which it incurs, including in-year costs for emerging Urgent Operational Requirements (UORs).

Departmental Research

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what research and development projects his Department is funding; how much has been allocated to each such project; and which organisations are undertaking each project. [262395]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) does not have a centralised research and development (R and D) budget. Development expenditure varies depending on the requirements of each project. The MOD does publish information on its overall expenditure on research across a wide range of diverse projects in UK Defence Statistics, a copy of which is in the Library of the House. The majority of research expenditure is undertaken by the science/innovation/technology top level budget which placed £531 million of research contracts in 2007-08 and whose budget in 2008-09 is £502 million.

On 26 February the MOD launched the dynamic Defence Technology Plan (DTP) available online at www.science.mod.uk to enable transparent prioritisation and coherence across MOD's R and D programme. The DTP aims to encourage fresh and innovative thinking, to demonstrate the value of the research programme to Defence and to enable more effective working across the R and D community. This is a cost-balanced expression of research priorities for the MOD that takes forward the Defence Technology Strategy (DTS), published in October 2006.

EU Defence Policy

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the European Commission and *(b)* the European Defence Agency on the co-ordination of the initiative on the European market for security and defence equipment and technologies. [262270]

Mr. Hutton: The Ministry of Defence has regular contact with the European Commission and the European Defence Agency, principally through meetings of the Council of Ministers and biannual European Defence Agency Ministerial Steering Boards.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effects of the restrictions on the procurement of security and

defence equipment and the transfer of such technologies among member states on the capacity of the Government to contribute towards meeting the objectives of the European Security and Defence Policy. [262271]

Mr. Hutton: The two draft Directives on defence procurement and the transfer of defence-related products are intended to increase transparency and interchange in the European defence equipment market. These measures should enhance the ability of all member states, including the UK, to contribute more effectively to meeting the objectives of the European Security and Defence Policy.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the European Commission on standardisation within the European security and defence technological and industrial base. [262272]

Mr. Hutton: The MOD has had little direct contact with the European Commission on this subject. The discussions that have taken place have been limited to agreeing an order of preference for the selection of standards to be used in Defence Procurement. Agreement was reached in 2008 that, where appropriate, European, international, and national civil standards should be used. After that in the order of preference, commercial standards widely used by Industry should be applied in preference to international military alliance standards such as those used in NATO and national Defence Standards.

The MOD has been involved indirectly with the Commission through a contract they awarded to the Centre de Normalisation (CEN), the European Civil Standards Organisation, to conduct work on standardisation systems in defence industries, and subsequently to develop a European Handbook for Defence Procurement. Its aim is to establish best practice in the application of standards for specified technology areas in support of defence procurement. The MOD is a member of a multinational group of Government experts and other stakeholders contributing to this work.

Rachel Reid

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department made of the potential effects on the safety of Rachel Reid of its decision to recall Colonel Owen McNally. [260894]

Mr. Hutton: I can confirm that a British Army officer was arrested in Afghanistan and returned to the UK on suspicion of breaching the Official Secrets Act. Due to the ongoing nature of the investigation, it would be inappropriate to make any further comment at this time.

Submarines: Accidents

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the standard operating procedure for a submarine following a collision is; and whether HMS Vanguard surfaced immediately after its collision with Le Triomphant. [262627]

Mr. Hutton: The submarine Emergency Operating Procedure (EOP) in the event of a dived collision starts with an immediate and swift check of essential systems by the ship control watch keepers. This is followed by a sequence of thorough damage control checks throughout the submarine. This EOP is routinely exercised by submarine crews during training, in shore simulators and at sea. I can confirm that the UK's deterrent capability has remained unaffected at all times and there has been no compromise to nuclear safety.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department *(a)* implemented the procedures in the Regulation of the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Programme JSP 518 for berthing a submarine with a significant defect and *(b)* informed the Health and Safety Executive prior to berthing HMS Vanguard at Coulport on 14 February 2009. [262629]

Mr. Hutton: The procedures in JSP518 are applicable in the event of a significant nuclear defect; this was not the situation for HMS Vanguard. There was therefore no requirement to inform the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) prior to berthing HMS Vanguard, as this was done in accordance with the safety case for the facility at the Royal Naval Armament Depot Coulport. Subsequently, as a matter of courtesy, the HSE was informed.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department is taking to prepare and approve a specific safety case for the docking and repair of HMS Vanguard in the Faslane shiplift; and what the timescale for completing this safety case is. [262630]

Mr. Hutton: There is no requirement to prepare a specific safety case as the docking and repair of HMS Vanguard is within the scope of the existing Facility Safety Case. A Facility Safety Case is the suite of documentation that justifies operations at a specific facility.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Algeria: Human Rights

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made any representations to the Algerian government on the welfare of the six individuals deported to that country since 2006 on national security grounds; and whether he plans to make representations on the welfare of those individuals. [262577]

Bill Rammell: Eight Algerian nationals have returned to Algeria voluntarily under the terms of the exchange of letters signed by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and President Bouteflika in 2006. The exchange of letters allows for individuals deported or voluntarily returned under its terms (and their families) to maintain contact with our embassy in Algiers. Our embassy initiated contact with the individuals proactively immediately following their return to Algeria. In 2007 our ambassador wrote to the Algerian authorities regarding four returnees who had been detained.

The returnees and their families retain the right to contact our embassy at any time. None has done so recently. Further contact with the Algerian authorities will be on a case by case basis.

Cayman Islands: Illegal Immigrants

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking to prevent illegal immigration into the Cayman Islands. [260712]

Gillian Merron: Illegal immigration from Cuba continues to be a serious problem for the Cayman Islands. Although the responsibility for immigration matters has been devolved to the local government we continue to support and encourage their relationship with the Government of Cuba to implement the memorandum of understanding which covers the repatriation of Cuban migrants. The Cayman Islands Government also have a mass migration contingency plan in place.

In February 2009 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office co-funded a workshop in the Cayman Islands for Regional Heads of Immigration Services from other Caribbean Overseas Territories, independent Caribbean countries and the US. In addition the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service has taken delivery of four new marine vessels which will allow their borders to be patrolled more effectively.

Cayman Islands: Overseas Residence

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British citizens took up residence in the Cayman Islands in each of the last five years. [260711]

Gillian Merron: The Cayman Islands Department of Immigration collates new residence statistics by country of origin. They have provided the following figures for new residents from the United Kingdom:

	Number
2004	350
2005	443
2006	432
2007	426
2008	428

Central Africa: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of *(a)* the effectiveness of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad and *(b)* its ability to protect civilians in Chad; and if he will make a statement. [261923]

Gillian Merron: The main role of the UN Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) is to select, train and advise the Détachement intégré de sécurité (DIS). The DIS are Chadian police who are designated to provide rule of law in and around refugee and internally displaced persons (IDP) camps.

The first group of 29 DIS officers were deployed to eastern Chad on 24 October 2008. Deployments are ongoing, with 563 officers currently patrolling the camps. However, we judge that it is still too early to make a thorough assessment of the effect of the DIS in protecting civilians in Chad.

EUFOR, the EU military mission accompanying MINURCAT, has contributed to the protection of civilians by providing greater security in the region, thereby allowing others to carry out the effective delivery of humanitarian aid. As set out in UN Security Council Resolution 1861, MINURCAT will now be expanded to include a military component, which will replace EUFOR on 15 March 2009.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad to reach the full mandated strength authorised by UN Security Council Resolution 1861. [261924]

Gillian Merron: UN Security Council Resolution 1861 provides for the transfer of authority from the European Union force in the Central African Republic and Chad (EUFOR) to the military component of the UN Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) on 15 March 2009. Force generation for the MINURCAT military component is still on-going. The UN Secretary-General will update the UN Security Council on the progress of the mission, including troop levels, every three months.

Colombia: Human Rights

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Colombian government on human rights. [262701]

Gillian Merron: We make regular representations to the Colombian government on human rights, reflecting our deep concern. I discussed human rights with Foreign Minister Bermudez and Vice President Santos in November 2008; and on a number of recent occasions with Colombia's ambassador to the UK. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised human rights concerns with Foreign Minister Bermudez in October 2008, and our ambassador in Bogota maintains regular dialogue with senior Colombian Ministers and officials on human rights issues.

Colombia: Military Aid

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department provides *(a)* funding and *(b)* training for counter-narcotics work in Colombia. [262578]

Gillian Merron: We do not disclose details of our bilateral training in the field of counter-narcotics in Colombia, as to do so would endanger the security of the UK and Colombian personnel involved, and undermine the effectiveness of that work.

We support a number of projects on counter narcotics in Colombia and elsewhere in the Latin American region that are implemented by the UN Office on Drugs and

Crime (UNODC). The Foreign and Commonwealth Office supports the following recent or ongoing UNODC projects in Colombia:

(i) Expanding regional legal assistance programmes (multi-year 2007-10)

(ii) Training against money laundering (2007-08)

(iii) Best practices in trials and investigation (multi-year 2007-09)

(iv) Colombia/Venezuela border (multi-year 2008-09)

(v) Risk of money laundering in commerce and trade (multi-year 2009-11)

(vi) Regional criminal justice sector reform (multi-year 2009-12)

(vii) Implementation of best practices in civil asset forfeiture (Colombia/Peru) (2009)

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* vetting and *(b)* recording of data is undertaken (i) prior to and (ii) during the training of Colombian military officers who receive training from UK personnel. [262583]

Gillian Merron: The monitoring of the human rights or other performance of individual Colombian military personnel is the responsibility of the Colombian armed forces.

Our embassy in Bogota keeps a record of Colombian security force personnel who receive UK training, whether in counter-narcotics, human rights or humanitarian demining, in case information emerged to suggest that they subsequently become involved in human rights abuses. No such information has emerged to date.

Disclosing the details of the record held by our embassy could endanger the lives of those involved.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many members of the High Mountain Battalion of the Colombian Army have received UK training in each year since 1999. [262584]

Gillian Merron: The UK does not provide training to whole units such as the High Mountain Battalion of the Colombian army. It is not possible to identify individuals trained by the UK or by UN programmes part-funded by the UK, who have gone on to serve in particular divisions of the Colombian armed forces.

I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1197-98W, for further information on Colombian security forces personnel who receive UK training.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether Colombian military personnel who have received UK training are subsequently monitored for any human rights abuses they commit. [263145]

Gillian Merron: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1197-98W.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Mining

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 21 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1522W, on Democratic Republic of Congo: mining, which other UK companies are involved in the exportation of minerals from the Democratic Republic of Congo. [262838]

Gillian Merron: We do not maintain a list of the UK companies currently involved in exporting minerals from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The UK companies whose involvement in this sector is known to us are Central African Mining and Exploration Company and Katanga Mining. Afrimex has informed us that it is no longer engaged in this trade. We continue to encourage UK companies trading in natural resources from DRC to do so in a way that is socially, economically and environmentally responsible, and to adhere to the voluntary guidelines set out by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. The UK is working with our partner governments to identify ways of promoting good practice in this sector.

Democratic Republic of Congo: War Crimes

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer of 5 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1745W, on Democratic Republic of Congo: war crimes, on what dates his officials have met representatives of the Congolese Government to discuss the indictment of Bosco Ntaganda; and whether further such meetings are planned. [263232]

Gillian Merron: Our ambassador discussed the question of the warrant for Bosco Ntaganda's arrest with the Democratic Republic of Congo's (DRC) Minister of Foreign Affairs at a meeting on 21 January 2009. Our representatives will raise the issue in future high-level exchanges with DRC Ministers and officials.

Departmental Art Works

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which works of art from the Government Art Collection each Minister in his Department has selected for display in a private office. [259447]

Gillian Merron: Works of art currently in display in Private Offices within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office are as follows:

Foreign Secretary's Office

Richard Conway: James Seton, Vice Admiral; Governor of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, 1787-1798—oil painting

Francis Grant: Sir Henry Pottinger (1789-1856) Governor of Hong Kong—oil painting

Joseph Nollekens: William Pitt (1759-1806) Prime Minister—marble bust

L Alfred Brunet-Debaines: Houses of Parliament—engraving

Edwin Whitney-Smith: Ernest Bevin (1881-1951) trade unionist and politician—bronze sculpture

Anon British 18C: View of Horse Guards, showing New Horse Guards—oil painting

Caroline Flint: (works inherited from predecessor)

William George Gillies: Perthshire Landscape—oil painting

John Everett Millais: Hubert von Herkomer—Benjamin Disraeli, Earl of Beaconsfield (1804-81) Prime Minister

John Davies: Sand Dunes, Maghara, Co. Donegal—photograph

Donald McIntyre: Crail, Fife—acrylic painting

Victor Pasmore: Hear the Sound of a Magic Tune - 3/25—screen print

Lord Malloch-Brown

William Scott: Cup and Pan Blues 99/100—screen print

Patrick Caulfield:Signature Pots 31/70—screen print

R B Kitaj: The Congo and other Poems - In Our Time: Covers for a Small Library After the Life for the Most Part: 37/150—screen print

R B Kitaj: Benia Krik: In Our Time: Covers for a Small Library After the Life for the Most Part - 37/150—screen print

Molly Guion: The Queen's Beasts—Oil painting

John Terence Holden: Homage—acrylic painting

Graham Sutherland: L'Elephant [The Elephant] "Le Bestiaire, ou Cortege d'Orphee" by Apollinaire 3/75—etching&aquatint

Gillian Merron - (works inherited from predecessor)

Thomas Picken: View of the Harbour, St. George's, Grenada, West Indies—lithograph

William Simpson: View of the Town and Harbour, St. George's, Grenada, West Indies—lithograph

Bill Rammell

John Latham:Tadpole-Taffrail (Five Photo Etchings) 20/30—etching

John Latham: Boy-Girl (Five Photo Etchings) 20/30—etching

John Latham: Bun - (Five Photo Etchings) 20/30—etching

John Latham: Presumed Level of Abstraction (Five Photo Etchings) 20/30—etching

John Latham: Flat Time 1-10 (Neg) (Five Photo Etchings) 20/30—etching

Geraldine Brock: Prayer in an Eastern Garden—textile

Departmental Bank Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with which banks his Department has or has had contracts for the provision of financial advice, for the financial year 2008-09. [262758]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not have contracts for financial advice with banks, but has a contract with HiFX Intelligent Financial Services to ensure that advice received is independent.

Departmental Data Protection

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department uses WPA2 encryption protocol on all its wireless networks. [259800]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office follows the relevant governmental standards covering communication, security and cryptography for the encryption of data.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what auditing his Department undertakes to ensure that IT security policies are being followed; and on how many occasions *(a)* IT security policies have been breached by employees and *(b)* a member of staff has been sanctioned for a breach of such policies in the last 12 months. [259801]

Gillian Merron: Compliance arrangements comprise a system of self assessment, accreditation, assurance reporting, audit and review.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's IT security hierarchy. [259802]

Gillian Merron: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary will not place a copy of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's IT security hierarchy in the Library.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what scanning for vulnerabilities his Department conducts of each of its IT devices; what method is used for IT device scans; and how many vulnerabilities have been detected as a result of such scans in the last 12 months. [259803]

Gillian Merron: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary will not provide a response to this question as it would undermine the security of the Department.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what IT security policy his Department has; what procedures are in place to ensure the policy is being followed; what his Department's policy is on encryption of data when they leave departmental premises; and what sanctions are in place for failure to comply with this policy. [259854]

Gillian Merron: Information is a key asset to the Government and their correct handling is vital to the delivery of public services and to the integrity of the Government. The Security Policy Framework, the Data Handling Report and the National Information Assurance Strategy produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic framework for protecting information that Government handle and put in place a set of mandatory measures which Departments must adhere to.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is compliant with the security policies contained in the Government Security Policy Framework including those for information security and assurance.

Depending upon the circumstances, a range of sanctions are available including disciplinary or administrative action, and in extreme or persistent cases, termination of employment/services and, if appropriate, criminal proceedings.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff in his Department have been subject to internal disciplinary procedures in relation to the use of religiously or racially offensive language during each of the last five years. [259808]

Gillian Merron: Central records show that to date no members of Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff have been subject to internal disciplinary procedures for using religiously or racially offensive language during each of the last five years.

I also refer the hon. Member to my written answer of 27 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1206W.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff in his Department *(a)* were disciplined and *(b)* had their employment terminated as a result of a poor sickness record in each of the last 12 months. [262233]

Gillian Merron: No staff have been disciplined as a result of a poor sickness record. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) deals with sickness absence under a separate sickness absence management procedure.

The following numbers of UK-based staff have had their employment terminated under this procedure as a result of a poor sickness record in the FCO and FCO Services:

	Number
February 2008	0
March 2008	0
April 2008	0
May 2008	0
June 2008	0
July 2008	3
August 2008	1
September 2008	0
October 2008	2
November 2008	0
December 2008	0
January 2009	1
February 2009	1

We do not hold records centrally of numbers of locally-engaged staff relevant to this question, and they could not be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) of 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 118-19W, on departmental ICT, what the *(a)* original expected cost was, *(b)* original expected delivery date was, *(c)* current expected cost is and *(d)* current expected completion date is of each ICT project listed; and if he will make a statement. [251285]

Gillian Merron: Several of the Information and Communication Technology Directorate contracts listed in the answer relate to support and maintenance, or are framework arrangements, rather than to the provision of new capabilities. Consequently the following contract values and dates cannot necessarily be related to specific projects.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)

(1) Provision of Managed Website Statistics Service—Nedstat.

Value: £86,000 and term unchanged.

(2) Future Firecrest (new IT infrastructure) Consultancy—Tribal.

A framework agreement for consultancy, with no fixed value. Commenced May 2006.

(3) Online Missing Persons and Travellers Registration Software—Worldreach.

Value: £286,800 and term unchanged.

(4) Development of Ministerial Visits Co-ordination Database—Parity.

Value: £45,280 and term unchanged.

(5) Home Office Biometrics Framework—Steria.

A framework agreement for consultancy, with no fixed value. Commenced April 2007.

(6) FCO Web FCO external websites platform—Logica.

Software development and implementation at a cost of £8,115,000 due to complete September 2008; delivered December 2008 at no additional cost.

(7) FCONet 3 Intranet Development—Fujitsu.

Original contract covered 12 months effort at a cost of £500,000, commencing February 2008, a similar contract for a further 12 months is likely.

(8) FCONet 3 Intranet Support—Fujitsu.

£635,000 for three years' support and licensing, commencing February 2008; unchanged.

(9) Enterprise Agreement—Microsoft.

£6,900,000 for three years worldwide use of specified Microsoft products, starting March 2008; unchanged.

(10) Premier Support Agreement—Microsoft.

£340,000 for one year's support from January 2009; unchanged.

FCO Services

(1) Tempest Workstation, Peripheral Equipment and Support—API Europe.

Value: £1,000,000 and term (two years from May 2007, with option to extend) unchanged.

(2) Wider Internal Markets Hardware Support for UK/Overseas—Hewlett Packard.

Value: £330,000 and term (three years from January 2008) unchanged.

Wilton Park

(1) Contact Records Management system development—GN Software.

Framework contract commenced May 2008, with no fixed value. Current costs under contract are approximately £450 per month.

Departmental Marketing

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much has been spent by his Department on advertising in the last 12 months. [243898]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's spending on advertising between 19 February 2008 and 18 February 2009 was £1,470,110.04.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much has been claimed in reimbursable expenses by special advisers in his Department in 2008-09 to date. [243115]

Gillian Merron: Costs incurred on reimbursable expenses in 2008-09 will be available only when the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's resource accounts are fully audited and laid before Parliament. This is expected to be before the 2009 summer recess.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many public consultations his Department has conducted in the last 12 months; how long each consultation was open for; how many responses were received in each case; and what the cost of conducting each consultation was. [256698]

Gillian Merron: This information is not held centrally, and could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1240W, on departmental public expenditure, which activities have been *(a)* delayed in 2008-09 and *(b)* identified for delay in 2009-10; and what the estimated saving from each delay is. [261938]

David Miliband: Prioritising our work to deliver on our objectives is the responsibility of budget holders with devolved responsibility. This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, projects would be prioritised based on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Strategic Objectives.

Any delayed activity would be reassessed during the quarterly review process. This process is used to scrutinise and challenge spending in order to move money between spending areas to fund additional pressures.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1240W, on departmental public expenditure, what his Department's budget for costs of overseas posts was in each of the last five financial years. [261943]

David Miliband: The information on overseas post budgets for 2004-05 and 2005-06 are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Overseas post budgets for the past three financial years are highlighted as follows:

	£ million
2006-07	366.50
2007-08	359.50
2008-09	[1]398.20

[1] Forecast.

The increase in the 2008-09 figure is due to uplift through the Overseas Pricing Mechanism less efficiency savings.

Departmental Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on staff surveys in each of the last five years; and which companies were contracted to carry out the surveys. [260145]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has conducted the following staff surveys over the last five years.

2004 staff survey conducted by 'NOP'. The contract value was £19,220. The actual spend information for this survey was not transferred successfully to the new FCO management information system. Answering this question by examining stored paper invoices would incur disproportionate cost.

2006 staff survey and two "mini" wave surveys conducted by ORC International. Actual spend was £36,320.

2007 staff survey conducted by ORC International. The actual spend was £35,004.

2008 staff survey conducted by ORC International. The actual spend to date is £25,373. The contract value is £40,500.

FCO Services (which became an Executive agency in April 2006 and acquired full trading fund status in April 2008) has conducted the following staff surveys over the last five years.

	Type of survey	*Company*	*Spend (£)*
2005	FCO Services staff survey	ORC International	19,000
2007	FCO Services staff survey	GfK NOP	24,613.00
2008	FCO Services staff survey	ORC International	25,553.00

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much expenditure was incurred in respect of overseas visits which *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers in his Department and *(c)* his Department's senior officials undertook in 2008. [262181]

Gillian Merron: A list of overseas visits made by all Ministers costing in excess of £500 is published on the Cabinet Office website by financial year. Figures for this financial year will be available shortly. FY2007-08 details can be accessed at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/ministers.aspx

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not hold centrally records of travel expenditure broken down by senior grades. To provide this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Economic Situation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* summits, *(b)* conferences and *(c)* seminars his Department has hosted since January 2008 at which a primary subject for discussion was the effect of the economic situation on matters within his Department's responsibility. [260134]

Gillian Merron: Responsibility for global economic issues does not lie exclusively with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), but across a number of Government departments, including HM Treasury, the Cabinet Office and the Department for International Development.

There have been two ministerial-level conferences, where economic issues were extensively discussed. I hosted the annual Overseas Territories Consultative Council on 28-29 October 2008. This was a forum for discussion between elected leaders of the Overseas Territories and Government Ministers on policy issues of concern to the Territories and the Government.

In July 2008, The UK-Caribbean Ministerial Forum included dedicated sessions on 'Implementation of Millennium Development Goals', 'Implementation of Economic Partnership Agreements', 'Reform of Financial Institutions' and 'Energy and Food Security; Alternative Energy Sources'.

At official level, senior officials led a discussion on the London Summit at the FCO's conference for its climate and energy attachés from Posts overseas on 26-27 February 2009.

In February 2009, our embassy in Budapest hosted a seminar on Global economic crisis:challenges and opportunities for Europe—framing the context with support from the Central European University of Budapest.

The FCO held its bi-annual conference for its economic officers in December 2008. The central themes were to understand the global economic crisis and how to support the Government's international policy responses effectively.

In October 2008 the FCO's Global Economy Group held an internal seminar on new risks facing emerging market economies in the financial crisis, covering economic risks, which countries considered and the impact on UK interests.

The FCO hosted a seminar on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Africa Economic Outlook in June 2008 and co-hosted with HM Treasury a seminar on international financial institutions with external experts in May 2008.

Looking ahead, the FCO's Research Analysts are organising a seminar in conjunction with the London School of Economics (LSE) IDEAS Centre to discuss the Geopolitical Implications of the Global Financial Crisis to be held at the LSE on 5 March 2009.

Overseas posts have a significant degree of discretion to organise local conferences or seminars on their own initiative. There are no centrally held records of events hosted by FCO posts overseas and collating details of events worldwide would incur disproportionate cost.

Horn of Africa: Security

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the level of threat to British interests from instability in the Horn of Africa; and if he will make a statement. [261926]

Bill Rammell: There has been a long history of terrorist activity in East Africa, from the Nairobi and Dar Es Salam US embassy bombings in 1998 to more recent activity in Somalia. A continuing terrorist presence in East Africa is of recognised strategic value to al-Qaeda, who are likely to view UK interests as legitimate targets.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) works together with its partners in Africa and here in the United Kingdom to monitor the security situation throughout the Horn of Africa and how that might reflect on the security of the United Kingdom and its nationals.

Britons travelling to the four countries which make up the Horn of Africa should continue to monitor our travel advice which is constantly updated. We currently advise against all travel to Somalia.

The long-term goal of the FCO and the Government is an East Africa which has achieved good governance and political stability through support for government and civil institutions. The FCO continues to work towards the achievement of those goals.

Israel: Embassies

Mr. Breed: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what decision he has made on the relocation of the British Embassy in Tel Aviv. [261792]

Bill Rammell: We can confirm that we have withdrawn from negotiations on a lease for the Hakirya Tower premises and we continue to explore solutions to ensure that we have suitable embassy premises in Tel Aviv.

This decision follows discussions with Africa-Israel (owners of the Hakirya Tower) about our concerns of involvement in settlement activities by Africa-Israel and its subsidiary companies. The Government's firm stance is that the construction of settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories is unlawful under international law, and this is an important policy issue for the Government.

Kashmir

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the *(a)* economic and *(b)* political situation in Kashmir. [261541]

Bill Rammell: Limited trade across the line of control began in October 2008, but the Composite Dialogue, the formal mechanism for discussion between India and Pakistan on a range of issues, including Kashmir and economic co-operation, has been placed on pause since the Mumbai attacks in November 2008. Elections in Indian-administered Kashmir were held in November/ December 2008. These passed off peacefully with a reported turnout of over 60 per cent. A new state government headed by the National Conference came to power. The last elections in Pakistan-administered Kashmir took place in July 2006. On 6 January 2009, the Legislative Assembly approved a vote of no confidence against Prime Minister Sardar Attique Ahmed Khan, who has been replaced by Sardar Yaqoob.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of progress in the bilateral talks between India and Pakistan on Kashmir. [261542]

Bill Rammell: The Composite Dialogue, the formal mechanism for discussion between India and Pakistan on a range of issues, including Kashmir, has been placed on pause since the Mumbai attacks in November 2008.

Kenya: Elections

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Kenyan Government on the establishment of a special tribunal in relation to the post-election violence in Kenya in 2008. [261997]

Gillian Merron: The Government have been clear, both privately and publicly, in their support for the recommendations made by the independent Commission of Inquiry into Post-Election Violence, which include the establishment of a special tribunal. Our high commissioner to Kenya has discussed this subject with the Kenyan President, Prime Minister, other government ministers and with MPs and civil society groups.

Kenya: Internally Displaced Persons

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the number of Kenyan people who have returned to their homes since the post-election violence in 2008. [261927]

Gillian Merron: It is difficult to determine exactly how many Kenyans were displaced in the violence which followed the December 2007 elections and how many have since returned to their homes.

According to a survey conducted last year by the Kenyan Government in co-operation with UN High Commission for Refugees, a total of 663,921 persons were displaced by the violence, of which around 300,000 were in camps. Official figures from the Kenyan Government on 2 February 2009 state that 347,148 internally displaced persons (IDPs) have been resettled since the violence, most of them returning to their homes, whilst 22,200 are living in 53 transit camps. According to official figures, only 2,582 still live in the two remaining official IDP camps. Another 28,979 IDPs are in so-called "self-help groups", which have joined together to buy land.

The Government have provided £2.5 million to help deal with the humanitarian consequences of the post-election violence.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will undertake a value for money assessment of UK funding provided for the activities of Tony Blair as Middle East Envoy. [261359]

Bill Rammell: We strongly support the valuable work done by the Quartet Representative, the right hon. Tony Blair. We are satisfied that our contributions to his office are an efficient way of seeking to achieve real improvements in the lives of Palestinians.

Overseas Trade

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1250W, on overseas trade: prices, what position he took on the future of the overseas price mechanism in his discussions with ministerial colleagues preceding the announcement of the comprehensive spending review. [261941]

David Miliband: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer that I gave on 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1250W.

Persian Gulf: Security

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in the Straits of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf. [261813]

Bill Rammell: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) regularly assesses the security situation in the Straits of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf.

The security situation was last reviewed in late February 2009 when media reports indicated that Iran had claimed sovereignty over Bahrain. The FCO welcomes the fact that the Iranian Foreign Ministry has made clear this is not the view of the Iranian government. The UK's view is clear and firm: Bahrain is a sovereign and independent state and a member of the UN. We refute any suggestion, to the contrary.

Somalia: Piracy

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* financial and *(b)* technical assistance the Government plans to provide to the International Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia. [260780]

Gillian Merron: The UK has assumed a leading role in the international response to the threat of piracy off Somalia. UN Security Council Resolution 1851 called for the establishment of an International Contact Group for Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS). In turn the CGPCS called for the creation of four working groups on key focus areas. In February 2009 the UK chaired (in partnership with, and located at, the International Maritime Organisation) one of these, an international working group looking to enhance international co-operation and co-ordination of counter-piracy activities. The UK has not offered any direct financial assistance to the wider CGPCS given our commitment to this working group, and we continue to provide technical expertise to all four working groups of the CGPCS.

The UK is committed to continue to support the ongoing work of the contact group and will consider what further assistance to offer as that work matures.

Sri Lanka: Armed Conflict

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports his Department has received of the use of white phosphorus weapons by the Sri Lankan army; and if he will make a statement. [261517]

Gillian Merron: We are aware of reports of the use of white phosphorus by the Sri Lankan army. The ongoing military hostilities and the lack of independent information coming from northern Sri Lanka make it difficult to verify these claims. As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has made clear, we urge all parties to the conflict in Sri Lanka to take action to avoid civilian casualties.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Sri Lankan government on access for humanitarian agencies and independent media organisations to areas of conflict and military operation in Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [262118]

Bill Rammell: As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has made clear, our priority is for the safety of civilians trapped in the fighting in the north.

In his written ministerial statement of 21 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 30-31WS, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary called for enhanced access

for humanitarian agencies to facilitate the delivery of adequate supplies of humanitarian aid. Our high commissioner in Colombo continues to raise this issue regularly with senior members of the Government of Sri Lanka.

We welcome the recent visit to Sri Lanka by John Holmes, UN Under-Secretary for Humanitarian Affairs, and hope this leads to an improvement in the humanitarian situation on the ground. We are aware that certain humanitarian agencies have been given access to camps for Internally Displaced Persons. We continue to lobby the Government of Sri Lanka on the need to ensure the safety of civilians and to allow full humanitarian access.

We have made representations to the Sri Lankan government on media freedoms in Sri Lanka.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps the Government has taken to promote a peace agreement in Sri Lanka. [263079]

Bill Rammell: As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has made clear, most recently during Foreign and Commonwealth Office oral questions on 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 140-43, our view remains that a political solution is the only way to bring a sustainable end to the conflict in Sri Lanka. Our consistent position remains that for peace to be sustainable, an inclusive political process that takes into account fully the legitimate concerns of all Sri Lankan communities—Sinhalese, Tamil and Muslim, is essential.

Our high commission in Colombo takes every opportunity to convey this to the Government of Sri Lanka. As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made clear in his written ministerial statement of 21 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 30-31 WS, we continue to engage with all political parties across all communities in Sri Lanka to support progress in this direction.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps the Government has taken in co-operation with the international community to ensure the safety of aid workers in Sri Lanka. [263082]

Bill Rammell: As my noble Friend Lord Malloch-Brown made clear in his statement of 10 March 2009, we are extremely concerned about the recent killing of an International Committee of the Red Cross humanitarian worker.

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/newsroom/latest-news/?view=Press&id=14678346

We have repeatedly called for a humanitarian ceasefire, which will allow civilians to leave the conflict area safely. We have also called for unrestricted access for humanitarian agencies so they can deliver assistance to those in need and evacuate the wounded without putting their own lives at risk.

We continue to call on both parties to the conflict to respect their obligations under international humanitarian law which requires them to recognise impartial humanitarian actors and do everything possible to allow the safe and free passage of adequate humanitarian relief to those in need.

We welcome the recent visit by John Holmes, the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, and hope this leads to an improvement in the situation for civilians on the ground. We continue to discuss the situation in Sri Lanka with international partners including the UN Department for Safety and Security and the Sri Lankan Government. The safety of aid workers must be guaranteed.

Sudan: Armed Conflict

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the deployment of Justice and Equality Movement forces in Southern Kordofan; and what recent assessment he has made of the capacity of the UN mission in Sudan to monitor such deployments. [260804]

Gillian Merron: Under the terms of its mandate, the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) is tasked with supporting the implementation of the comprehensive peace agreement. To this end, UNMIS monitors any threat to security including movement of armed groups in the transitional areas, including South Kordofan. UNMIS has deployed a number of officers throughout the transitional areas, who report movements through the UN chain of command.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of levels of *(a)* government troops and *(b)* rebel movement forces in southern Darfur; what assessment he has made of the potential effects of changes in such levels on the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement; and if he will make a statement. [260820]

Gillian Merron: We are aware, through UN reporting, that numbers of Justice and Equality Movement forces have increased throughout Darfur in recent weeks. Darfur remains sovereign Sudanese territory and a Government of Sudan garrison is present throughout. We do not monitor either the level of Sudanese military deployment, or rebel force movement other than in the context of assessing the security threat to the UN-African Union Mission in Darfur and the general status of the various peace processes ongoing in the region.

Any increase in both Government of Sudan and rebel troop levels would be of concern as it could lead to increased levels of tension, which would hamper ongoing efforts to secure peace and stability in Sudan, particularly with regard to the comprehensive peace agreement.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received any recent reports of the effect on oil prices of the recent attacks in southern Sudan by the Lord's Resistance Army. [262796]

Gillian Merron: We have received no reports of the effect on oil prices of the recent attacks in southern Sudan by the Lord's Resistance Army.

Sudan: Chad

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the current state of relations between Sudan and Chad; and what discussions he has had with UN Security Council counterparts on the matter. [261922]

Gillian Merron: We regularly receive reports from a wide variety of sources on the state of relations between Sudan and Chad. Despite the restoration of diplomatic ties on 9 November 2008, relations between the countries remain strained.

We regularly discuss this matter with UN Security Council counterparts, including during discussions of the Secretary General's sixty day reports on the African Union UN Mission in Darfur and the 90 day reports on the UN Mission in Chad.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects the African Union/United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur to reach its full mandated strength; and if he will make a statement. [260891]

Gillian Merron: As at 31 January 2009, the UN-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) was at a total strength of 18,309 troops, police and civilians, comprising 12,541 military personnel (64 per cent. of mandated strength in this area), 2,639 police (41 per cent. of mandated strength in this area), and 3,129 civilians (56 per cent. of mandated strength in this area). Further deployment will take place over the coming weeks and months. We continue to work closely with the UN and potential contributors, and call on all parties to facilitate the full and rapid deployment of UNAMID.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will assess the likely effects of recent decisions of the International Criminal Court in relation to Sudan on levels of co-operation between the government of Sudan and the UN Mission in Sudan; and if he will make a statement. [261735]

Gillian Merron: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary on 4 March 2009 urged all parties in Sudan to avoid escalation and to protect international personnel and humanitarian workers.

The statement is available at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/newsroom/latest-news/?view=PressS&id=14479209

The government of Sudan have said they will continue to work with UN agencies and missions.

We are very concerned by the humanitarian implications of its decision to expel 13 international humanitarian non-governmental organisations (NGOs), many of whom work closely with the UN. We endorse the UN Secretary-General's call for the government of Sudan urgently to reconsider this decision. We are in close touch on this with the UN, NGOs and other partners.

Sudan: War Crimes

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he is making to the Government of Sudan consequent on the indictment of President Omar al-Bashir; and if he will make a statement. [262839]

Gillian Merron: We are gravely concerned by the humanitarian impact of Sudan's decision to expel 13 international non-governmental organisations following the International Criminal Court's announcement. UN humanitarian officials have said this will disrupt over 50 per cent. of the current humanitarian effort in Darfur.

On 5 March 2009 our ambassador in Khartoum urged the Government of Sudan to reconsider. The UN Secretary General, the US and the EU have done the same.

We are underlining the potential risks with the African Union, Arab League and others.

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which trade unions are recognised in his Department. [262090]

Gillian Merron: The following three unions have agreed rights to represent employees in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and FCO Services:

Public and Commercial Services Union

The Diplomatic Service Association—the diplomatic service section of the FDA (formerly First Division Association)

Prospect—representing technical staff and other specialists

United Arab Emirates: Sports

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the decision taken by the United Arab Emirates government to deny Israeli tennis player Shahar Peer a visa for the recent World Tennis Association tournament in Dubai. [261950]

Bill Rammell: We are aware of reports about the decision taken by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Government to deny Israeli tennis player Shahar Peer a visa for the recent Women's Tennis Association tournament in Dubai. However, this is an issue for the Governments of Israel and the UAE. We continue to oppose boycotts of Israel and strive for a lasting peace between the Arab world and Israel.

Venezuela: Politics and Government

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications for the Government's policy of the outcome of the recent referendum in Venezuela; and if he will make a statement. [262703]

Gillian Merron: The UK and Venezuela will continue to have a constructive bi-lateral relationship based on shared interests and objectives in areas such as trade, counter-narcotics, energy and consular assistance.

Western Sahara: Politics and Government

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2009W, on Western Sahara, if he will make representations to the Moroccan Ambassador to the UK on Morocco's continued occupation of Western Sahara when she takes up her post in London. [262792]

Bill Rammell: The new Moroccan ambassador to the UK has now taken up her post in London. She has yet to meet with Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials.

As with all parties to the ongoing dispute, we continue to encourage Morocco to enter into the UN-led negotiation process in a spirit of realism and compromise; and to work towards a mutually acceptable political solution that will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, as called for by the UN Security Council.

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 4 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1598W, on Western Sahara: politics and government, what the Government's policy is on the inclusion of independence as a referendum option under any agreement. [262832]

Bill Rammell: The Government continue to believe that progress towards a negotiated solution to the dispute in Western Sahara providing for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara, is best achieved under the auspices of the UN. The Government also continue to believe any referendum on the future status of Western Sahara and the options it presents should be the result of the UN led negotiation process and agreed by all parties to the dispute.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects to answer Question 243945 tabled on 10 December 2008 on overseas posts. [258099]

David Miliband: The question was answered on 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 217-20W.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Departmental Responsibilities

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Ministerial *(a)* taskforces and *(b)* action groups she is a member of. [245941]

Jacqui Smith: I am a member of two ministerial taskforces and action groups: the Identity Cards Working Group and the Ministerial Action Group on Violence. However I attend many other meetings with Ministers and external stakeholders.

Drugs: Crime

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons her Department does not make an annual estimate of the levels of acquisitive crime associated with drug addiction; and if she will make a statement. [260063]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Department does not produce annual estimates of drug-related acquisitive crime. Both drug use and offending are often covert activities and the relationship between them can be complex, consequently such estimates are subject to large uncertainties.

The Department has published research that shows that drug users account for a large proportion of acquisitive crime, with recent survey data focusing on the extent of acquisitive crime that is class A drug-related. For example:

81 per cent. of arrestees who used heroin and/or crack cocaine (HC) on at least a weekly basis reported committing acquisitive crimes in the 12 months prior to arrest, in comparison to 30 per cent. of those arrestees who did not take HC weekly[1]. Additionally, around two-fifths (39 per cent.) of drug treatment seekers reported committing an acquisitive crime in the four weeks prior to interview. This figure rose in the case of heroin and crack cocaine users, with 55 per cent. reporting that they committed an acquisitive crime in the four weeks before interview[2].

Sources:

[1] Table 5.4 Home Office Statistical Bulletin 12/07
http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1207.pdf

[2] Home Office Research Report 3
http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/horr03c.pdf

European Police Office

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding the UK is providing to Europol in 2008-09; and how many British *(a)* police officers and *(b)* civil servants are seconded to Europol. [262435]

Meg Hillier: The UK contribution to the funding of Europol in 2008-09 is EUR 9,421,740.

There are no police officers currently seconded to Europol; there is one civil servant seconded. However, figures from 2008 show that 11 United Kingdom police officers and other law enforcement officers are also working at Europol on fixed term appointments.

Immigration Controls: Educational Institutions

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much it cost to establish the accreditation system for educational institutions under Tier 4 of the immigration controls established in 2008; and what estimate she has made of the annual costs of administering the system. [261851]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 9 March 2009]:* Since 2007 Ofsted has been paid a total of £50,000 by the UK Border Agency and the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills to help establish the accreditation system for Tier 4 of the Points Based System. Ofsted assesses the accreditation bodies seeking to become approved by the UK Border Agency and chairs the bi-monthly meetings of the Accreditation Standards and Consistency Group.

Discussions on the fees to be paid to Ofsted in the forthcoming year are currently ongoing.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what provisions have been made under Tier 4 of the immigration controls established in 2008 for students in respect of whom tuition fees are paid in advance. [261852]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 9 March 2009]:* The Statement of Changes to the Immigration Rules (HC 314) laid before the House on 9 March 2009, which will become effective on 31 March, includes the immigration rules for tier 4 of the points-based system. These will require that, in addition to having a valid visa letter from a licensed sponsor, a student will need to demonstrate that he or she meets the maintenance requirement of the rules in order to obtain sufficient points.

In order to obtain the points for the funds requirement under tier 4, a student will need to show that he has the full cost of the fees of the course (for first year only if the course is longer than 12 months), plus maintenance of £800 for each month of the course if studying in London, or £600 for each month of the course if studying outside London, up to a maximum of nine months.

If a student has already paid all or part of his fees in advance at the time of his application, he will need to provide verifiable evidence of this and will then need to demonstrate that he has sufficient money to cover the remainder of any fees and to maintain himself in the UK.

Passports: Fraud

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many prosecutions for passport fraud there have been in the last six years. [262470]

Meg Hillier: The figures recorded by the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) for the number of prosecutions known to have been made against individuals who have fraudulently applied for passports, and convictions secured as a result of those prosecutions in the last six years are given in the following table.

	Prosecutions	*Convictions*
2003	16	—
2004	54	—
April 2005-March 2006	22	12
April 2006-March 2007	75	55
April 2000-March 2008	12	9
April 2008-February 2009	17	5

It should be noted that IPS does not routinely receive feedback from the police or prosecution authorities on cases of passport fraud which are referred to them. The figures given above are therefore likely to be a significant underrepresentation of the number of prosecutions brought and convictions secured. IPS is working with the police and prosecution authorities to develop a more effective feedback mechanism. The figures collated by IPS prior to 2005 do not distinguish between successful and unsuccessful prosecutions.

Police

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what work the Risk and Regulatory Advisory Council has undertaken on risk and policing. [255021]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

The Risk and Regulation Advisory Council (RRAC) is supported by a team within BERR and I have been advised as follows:

The RRAC was asked by Sir Ronnie Flanagan in Recommendation 20 of his Review of Policing to

> "begin the national debate on risk aversion and culture change at a central government level".

As an independent body without vested interests, the RRAC benefited from the ability to convene a group of considerable diversity, without attracting the prejudices of government-badged intervention. The RRAC brought together 47 stakeholders to debate this issue, including: the then Minister for Policing my right hon. Friend the Member for Harrow East (Mr. McNulty), Ken Jones, President of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO); Bob Jones, Chair of the Association of Police Authorities (APA); and Jim Barker-McCardle, Director of the National Police Improvement Agency (NPIA). A full list of organisations is given as follows. The council's work brings together and adds to various currents of reform being considered across the police service, allowing synergies to emerge from previously unconnected viewpoints.

Since responding to Sir Ronnie Flanagan in March 2008 the RRAC:

> has engaged widely with representatives from inside and outside the police service to understand the complexity of this issue. This culminated in the council's first major risk forum at the end of July;
>
> has identified (through the risk forum and subsequent debate within the community of practice) a vision of "risk-based decision-making" in policing: a more flexible policing environment where frontline officers are better equipped to evaluate risks and exercise their professional judgment to respond appropriately.
>
> Four inter-related unifying objectives have been identified for priority action:
>
> Creating a more constructive leadership environment
>
> Enhancing and embedding the concept of the "learning organisation" in the police
>
> Delivering buresucracy that is flexible, adaptable and appropriate
>
> Improving public confidence in policing.
>
> has used these objectives, and associated options for delivery, to inform the work of the NPIA and ACPO in response to Recommendation 20. The RRAC continues to engage at official level with the Home Office, the NPIA, and ACPO; and at a more senior level with the Minister for Policing, Dennis O'Connor, HM Acting Chief Inspector of Constabulary, and Jan Berry, Chair of the Practitioners Group on Reducing Bureaucracy in the Police.
>
> and has created an on-going community of practice to support the leadership of the police service in implementing reforms that will have a positive impact on frontline policing.

Organisations represented in RRAC Risk Forum on Policing and Community of Practice

Age Concern England

All Parliamentary Committee on Policing

Association of Chief Police Officers

Association of Police Authorities

Cabinet Office

Cheshire police

Children's Society

Crown Prosecution Service

Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform

Devon and Cornwall Constabulary

Doughty Street Chambers

Health and Safety Executive
Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary
Home Office
Humberside police
Independent Police Complaints Commission
Leicestershire police
Liberty
Local Government Association
London School of Economics
Luton and Dunstable Hospital Trust
Metropolitan police
NAPO
National Policing Improvement Agency
Police Federation
Police Superintendents Association
Society of Editors, The
Staffordshire police
Staffordshire Police Authority
Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust, The
Surrey police
UNISON
University of Portsmouth
Victim Support
West Midlands police
Wiltshire police
Work Foundation, The

Police: Finance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much each police force has received from central government in each year since 2000; and if she will make a statement. [262569]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is set out in the following table:

£ million

	Government grant[1,2]							
Police authority	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*[4]	*2006-07*	*2007-08*[5]	*2008-09*[5]
Avon and Somerset	146.96	152.58	158.87	173.99	175.19	183.81	185.92	184.21	194.47
Bedfordshire	54.24	59.89	61.51	66.83	69.22	73.11	74.15	76.21	79.48
Cambridgeshire	66.89	71.27	76.80	77.96	79.66	85.26	82.33	85.58	87.90
Cheshire	94.16	100.79	103.02	112.59	119.77	124.28	130.88	136.13	138.45
Cleveland	76.30	80.96	84.06	90.97	94.79	99.54	101.32	105.29	107.46
Cumbria	53.66	55.61	60.11	63.08	65.27	68.71	72.43	72.29	79.09
Derbyshire	94.24	101.56	106.46	111.23	114.88	119.38	117.32	119.81	123.27
Devon and Cornwall	152.88	163.44	167.49	174.26	180.29	189.16	190.95	199.38	203.75
Dorset	58.82	62.45	65.46	71.17	75.46	73.19	81.17	82.66	83.29
Durham	74.77	77.69	81.78	86.93	90.27	95.28	94.36	97.68	98.31
Dyfed-Powys	26.77	28.00	28.17	30.12	32.23	33.61	32.69	34.17	35.64
Essex	142.51	152.99	157.94	169.34	173.67	181.81	180.43	187.91	196.32
Gloucestershire	52.88	55.55	58.78	61.48	63.66	68.00	67.93	71.35	71.90
Greater Manchester	351.70	374.55	384.68	417.66	433.15	462.73	479.73	484.16	518.84
Gwent	35.83	37.23	37.64	40.90	43.29	44.44	44.27	45.70	46.07
Hampshire	169.64	178.39	185.16	197.87	208.08	239.16	222.35	221.75	227.05
Hertfordshire	92.89	100.61	102.27	108.85	114.58	117.84	121.12	127.33	130.65
Humberside	103.06	106.20	110.26	117.34	124.65	132.49	135.00	134.90	137.87
Kent	162.74	178.10	179.96	188.38	198.30	203.93	193.45	219.23	224.19
Lancashire	163.35	173.85	174.78	188.91	196.55	205.41	207.98	215.90	221.02
Leicestershire	90.60	94.60	101.21	107.59	111.45	118.17	124.81	126.03	129.42
Lincolnshire	56.43	60.34	60.97	64.98	68.22	71.17	66.54	72.47	71.10
Merseyside	220.65	235.53	241.29	267.38	269.90	279.85	276.08	287.30	291.72
Metropolitan[3]	1,601.10	1,731.70	1,838.70	1,923.90	1,983.50	1,928.50	2,019.00	2,115.40	2,162.26
Norfolk	74.20	81.58	86.60	90.79	94.37	99.27	100.08	102.25	103.16
North Wales	39.16	41.36	41.11	44.71	47.08	49.47	48.07	50.28	51.53
North Yorkshire	66.55	72.69	71.68	78.89	80.61	83.73	86.24	79.39	84.45
Northamptonshire	57.14	59.46	62.21	69.79	70.71	72.37	75.49	78.53	82.02
Northumbria	197.06	209.79	211.02	226.21	233.28	250.35	249.17	260.01	267.01
Nottinghamshire	113.91	123.97	129.84	136.54	142.04	148.94	143.48	145.55	149.74
South Wales	84.27	88.02	89.25	93.45	103.17	107.45	91.93	94.82	97.25
South Yorkshire	159.24	167.09	168.77	184.86	191.87	202.82	205.49	211.15	216.32
Staffordshire	100.13	105.23	106.36	112.87	117.62	122.43	122.05	126.77	129.76
Suffolk	59.09	62.24	62.02	69.57	71.81	74.76	73.73	75.57	77.24
Surrey	83.09	83.35	87.48	93.59	96.78	100.80	104.76	110.12	113.62
Sussex	142.03	149.10	153.68	168.05	180.99	180.95	156.10	189.14	193.09
Thames Valley	193.02	210.13	219.41	233.34	237.32	249.35	260.52	261.98	267.92
Warwickshire	44.98	46.90	48.67	51.91	53.90	56.16	54.57	56.91	59.77
West Mercia	98.36	108.63	109.21	114.12	117.77	122.50	126.05	131.49	134.71
West Midlands	357.58	379.35	388.14	415.20	433.31	466.12	471.41	487.88	509.25
West Yorkshire	268.61	287.07	288.26	310.30	329.12	347.12	345.62	348.95	384.82

£ million

	Government grant[1,2]								
Police authority	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06[4]	2006-07	2007-08[5]	2008-09[5]
Wiltshire	57.20	60.89	60.78	64.68	65.85	70.26	68.77	73.03	74.49
England and Wales Total	4,737.60	5,038.79	5,173.15	5,548.65	5,770.08	6,075.37	6,066.75	6,271.23	6,493.41

[1] Revenue funding includes all grants inside aggregate external finance (AEF) (i.e. revenue grants paid for councils' core services), and includes formula grant and all specific grants.
[2] Welsh Government Grant includes Home Office police grant floor funding and additional support provided to ensure Welsh police authorities receive at least a minimum increase in grant in line with English authorities.
[3] The data for Metropolitan police authority from 2000-01 onwards are not available from DCLG as they are collected as consolidated data from GLA. Data used are compiled from Home Office data for allocated grants.
[4] In 2005-06 figures were adjusted for comparison purposes following the transfer of pensions and security funding from general grant in 2006-07 so are not directly comparable.
[5] 2007-08 and 2008-09 Government grant figures are budget figures.
Source:
DCLG from English police authorities/WAG—from Welsh police authorities.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what sums the police funding formula has provided for each force in each year since 2000; and if she will make a statement. [262570]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is set out in the following tables.

£

Police authority	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Avon and Somerset	87,399,606	90,823,417	91,025,174	97,497,303	99,125,691
Bedfordshire	32,334,709	34,154,268	34,313,252	37,172,121	38,042,531
Cambridgeshire	39,018,222	40,913,279	40,842,075	45,699,504	46,576,977
Cheshire	56,560,641	59,607,363	59,689,589	65,768,627	66,566,930
City of London Police	27,499,587	28,410,238	29,843,245	32,466,804	32,721,468
Cleveland	42,689,084	44,526,791	44,723,013	47,515,422	47,387,781
Cumbria	31,375,021	32,528,449	32,733,488	34,881,827	34,780,111
Derbyshire	53,034,717	55,605,738	56,470,734	59,786,434	61,522,366
Devon and Cornwall	90,407,760	94,453,687	94,722,350	101,224,311	103,062,803
Dorset	36,365,315	37,515,257	37,600,585	39,688,640	40,137,675
Durham	42,312,761	43,883,735	43,958,181	46,764,624	47,311,229
Dyfed-Powys	26,772,684	27,995,519	28,173,194	30,116,651	30,821,707
Essex	88,731,577	92,986,657	92,346,333	94,671,043	96,185,263
Gloucestershire	32,013,199	33,623,920	33,653,863	36,000,214	36,225,217
Greater Manchester	195,042,589	203,348,383	203,722,362	219,352,833	223,748,169
Gwent	35,833,320	37,233,199	37,640,172	40,903,387	41,172,592
Hampshire	102,468,115	107,629,660	108,365,042	114,032,123	117,214,067
Hertfordshire	60,646,710	62,171,998	61,940,063	64,815,800	66,002,916
Humberside	58,960,491	60,788,125	60,476,986	64,945,300	65,944,334
Kent	96,482,918	102,643,758	102,446,510	106,107,422	105,806,169
Lancashire	93,572,113	96,913,624	97,392,588	105,221,722	107,607,882
Leicestershire	53,166,059	55,515,468	55,659,650	60,032,339	61,490,493
Lincolnshire	32,949,903	34,368,471	34,305,310	36,915,707	37,928,015
Merseyside	122,150,411	126,726,928	126,336,316	134,476,810	135,220,409
Metropolitan	956,094,652	1,007,548,948	1,015,895,687	1,082,393,976	1,123,084,093
Norfolk	43,604,366	45,902,498	46,284,453	49,981,980	50,952,938
North Wales	39,155,787	41,355,372	41,105,875	44,713,496	45,563,347
North Yorkshire	40,106,187	42,078,019	42,026,127	44,615,774	45,448,481
Northamptonshire	34,152,676	35,608,101	35,505,178	39,929,177	41,055,295
Northumbria	109,719,591	113,786,288	113,187,850	123,558,391	124,859,764
Nottinghamshire	65,244,353	67,898,202	67,683,907	72,417,105	74,153,661
South Wales	84,271,379	88,021,716	89,252,826	93,451,901	94,481,939
South Yorkshire	89,258,901	92,560,165	92,071,806	98,448,333	99,736,023
Staffordshire	58,772,647	60,919,827	60,965,947	64,441,849	64,865,495
Suffolk	35,856,767	37,751,403	37,702,731	40,324,112	40,383,362
Surrey	58,019,140	56,370,738	55,242,942	53,950,431	54,987,597
Sussex	86,972,591	91,295,477	91,312,691	94,854,341	96,355,063
Thames Valley	116,689,318	122,843,310	122,386,580	132,223,014	134,382,372
Warwickshire	27,288,322	28,440,936	28,078,851	30,646,808	31,521,336
West Mercia	58,841,597	62,067,980	61,765,548	66,706,020	68,584,593
West Midlands	198,099,416	205,624,702	206,139,660	231,264,472	235,943,043
West Yorkshire	149,798,312	155,822,479	155,924,778	170,182,426	172,834,553

Police authority	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	£ 2004-05
Wiltshire	33,626,487	34,844,907	34,566,488	37,830,426	38,148,250
Total England and Wales	3,823,360,000	3,995,109,000	4,005,480,000	4,287,991,000	4,379,944,000

Police authority	2005-06	2006-07[1]	2007-08[1]	2008-09[1]	£ 2009-10[1]
Avon and Somerset	105,402,108	98,859,781	101,386,013	104,648,915	107,970,034
Bedfordshire	40,023,541	38,331,934	39,321,366	40,114,378	41,364,028
Cambridgeshire	49,442,382	44,536,594	45,827,889	46,983,075	48,522,197
Cheshire	68,770,973	62,053,729	63,403,224	63,626,051	65,310,188
City of London Police	35,730,725	21,780,359	22,777,445	20,164,287	20,972,046
Cleveland	50,961,807	45,550,280	46,314,175	47,761,626	48,939,479
Cumbria	36,571,836	29,461,117	30,067,923	30,766,382	31,577,098
Derbyshire	63,185,709	60,658,122	62,057,185	63,421,510	65,213,723
Devon and Cornwall	107,153,408	99,312,098	101,940,020	104,461,448	107,814,939
Dorset	41,766,284	38,277,430	39,193,616	39,596,751	40,675,811
Durham	49,236,202	42,314,352	43,126,294	43,972,534	45,042,923
Dyfed-Powys	32,334,347	30,101,614	30,515,012	30,055,562	30,849,395
Essex	100,515,508	98,828,343	101,213,005	105,210,353	108,373,887
Gloucestershire	37,862,044	32,962,364	33,771,205	33,822,902	34,753,845
Greater Manchester	233,165,923	220,764,792	225,373,682	232,718,485	238,983,616
Gwent	43,457,567	43,167,144	43,784,998	44,694,954	45,912,823
Hampshire	121,044,966	113,019,810	115,701,985	118,472,352	121,830,938
Hertfordshire	68,902,843	69,542,743	71,223,878	73,066,019	75,202,580
Humberside	68,511,918	61,677,974	62,939,367	66,104,705	68,022,083
Kent	111,375,782	103,071,177	105,762,705	109,442,380	112,780,461
Lancashire	111,620,010	100,720,276	102,924,275	106,612,752	109,639,146
Leicestershire	65,595,990	61,364,008	62,812,898	64,317,971	66,132,020
Lincolnshire	40,040,556	35,634,268	36,692,789	38,077,077	39,401,671
Merseyside	139,875,905	125,466,447	127,673,757	131,347,522	134,323,437
Metropolitan	1,177,238,422	1,001,272,548	1,026,711,642	1,053,284,752	1,083,629,334
Norfolk	53,393,173	45,881,630	47,130,402	48,835,666	50,394,120
North Wales	47,530,016	42,430,467	42,980,941	43,059,496	44,159,080
North Yorkshire	47,213,578	40,673,773	41,642,518	42,994,166	44,326,041
Northamptonshire	42,629,754	39,657,024	40,694,976	42,075,027	43,449,956
Northumbria	130,020,176	105,706,944	107,608,914	108,833,223	111,322,014
Nottinghamshire	77,502,952	71,490,215	73,014,681	76,282,457	78,454,321
South Wales	97,992,838	91,931,721	94,815,430	97,251,235	99,808,072
South Yorkshire	103,862,931	97,083,391	99,050,816	101,663,279	104,316,858
Staffordshire	68,021,216	63,567,388	64,803,792	67,064,281	68,773,607
Suffolk	42,856,865	38,164,681	39,154,398	40,240,676	41,497,864
Surrey	57,790,652	61,759,094	63,220,755	64,347,634	66,131,768
Sussex	99,329,967	92,031,598	94,359,320	96,401,140	99,197,503
Thames Valley	139,463,100	135,246,817	138,457,244	140,746,896	144,627,865
Warwickshire	32,902,060	30,577,272	31,378,293	31,690,650	32,648,789
West Mercia	70,433,269	63,740,053	65,215,037	66,090,965	67,931,247
West Midlands	244,071,010	241,880,368	246,805,622	255,342,775	261,793,014
West Yorkshire	179,462,922	167,175,073	170,948,955	177,985,725	183,231,315
Wiltshire	39,680,765	35,695,187	36,624,458	37,462,454	38,585,059
Total England and Wales	4,573,944,000	4,143,422,000	4,240,422,000	4,351,112,288	4,473,926,2151

[1] Welsh figures adjusted to include Rule 1.
Source: Police Grant Reports for England and Wales.

Police: Road Traffic Control

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time equivalent dedicated traffic police there were in each police authority area in each year since 1997. [262275]

Mr. Coaker: Data are available for officers whose primary function is listed as traffic. These are given in the following table.

Police officers FTE[1] whose main function is 'Traffic'[2]

	1996-97[3]	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Avon and Somerset	—	211	207	200	211	214	216	222	228	215	148	160

Police officers FTE[1] whose main function is 'Traffic'[2]

	1996-97[3]	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Bedfordshire	—	89	79	73	69	69	75	80	80	81	68	65
Cambridgeshire	—	91	96	93	86	78	85	99	101	99	96	90
Cheshire	—	204	205	196	187	194	194	200	194	85	91	94
Cleveland	—	82	67	68	63	67	64	73	2	61	72	104
Cumbria	—	117	117	119	111	108	107	110	108	111	114	99
Derbyshire	—	139	147	139	136	140	107	121	116	119	110	109
Devon and Cornwall	—	215	212	215	202	187	192	198	211	215	225	232
Dorset	—	93	77	83	86	81	91	86	82	81	80	78
Durham	—	115	117	116	113	113	111	119	108	105	100	107
Dyfed-Powys	—	89	97	93	83	75	136	105	141	143	136	126
Essex	—	268	259	245	249	254	241	242	243	243	231	219
Gloucestershire	—	83	82	68	69	64	62	66	67	73	67	67
Greater Manchester	—	429	434	433	423	421	406	392	359	342	352	338
Gwent	—	93	88	90	89	87	93	95	96	102	95	57
Hampshire	—	261	278	251	240	240	248	246	244	240	237	214
Hertfordshire	—	157	158	155	168	149	150	151	149	149	145	152
Humberside	—	165	149	155	145	136	123	119	225	181	100	104
Kent	—	149	119	103	104	104	104	—	122	116	109	122
Lancashire	—	422	225	220	217	220	198	187	190	197	184	180
Leicestershire	—	85	86	87	95	0	92	95	85	77	72	74
Lincolnshire	—	95	95	93	88	98	90	89	96	102	100	92
City of London	—	32	24	22	24	25	24	24	28	24	23	26
Merseyside	—	197	200	185	130	126	125	119	115	138	150	152
Metropolitan Police	—	823	782	824	686	0	583	592	1,029	603	611	612
Norfolk	—	111	107	109	113	114	120	121	107	112	110	118
Northamptonshire	—	97	87	52	52	61	70	71	65	63	63	60
Northumbria	—	164	162	158	158	178	245	253	165	167	172	165
North Wales	—	143	236	134	146	132	115	114	76	81	98	90
North Yorkshire	—	127	128	96	129	140	151	138	101	97	99	105
Nottinghamshire	—	177	182	167	175	111	26	121	133	134	139	144
South Wales	—	155	220	224	238	244	243	245	243	243	252	233
South Yorkshire	—	197	197	196	206	208	180	127	134	141	143	144
Staffordshire	—	204	208	188	35	34	50	49	58	28	35	34
Suffolk	—	68	74	70	63	68	68	72	76	80	77	81
Surrey	—	176	177	173	197	110	108	110	107	99	87	98
Sussex	—	206	197	191	190	174	164	163	163	160	169	160
Thames Valley	—	272	265	251	251	247	259	259	245	236	237	250
Warwickshire	—	102	100	102	96	95	103	103	93	97	93	93
West Mercia	—	239	238	278	322	325	292	115	117	116	129	128
West Midlands	—	412	405	394	380	385	384	405	393	401	383	352
West Yorkshire	—	307	331	323	326	336	320	314	317	343	324	283
Wiltshire	—	96	90	93	91	88	91	96	93	13	89	91
Total	7,523	7,951	7,806	7,522	7,238	6,317	6,902	6,706	7,104	6,511	6,412	6,299

[1] This and other tables contain full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
[2] Staff with multiple responsibilities (or designations) are recorded under their 'primary' role or function. The traffic function includes staff who are predominantly employed on motorcycles or in patrol vehicles for the policing of traffic and motorway-related duties. This does not include officers employed in accident investigation or vehicle examination.
[3] Data are unavailable for 1996-07 by police force area

Police: Stun Guns

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police forces had access to and *(b)* police officers were permitted to use Taser guns in each of the last five years; and what forecast she has made of the equivalent figures for each of the next three years. [261756]

Jacqui Smith: In 2004, following a trial in five forces, the then Home Secretary agreed that chief officers of all police forces in England and Wales could make Taser available to authorised firearms officers as a less lethal option for use in situations where a firearms authority had been granted in accordance with criteria laid down in the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) manual of guidance on police use of firearms.

The Home Office and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) announced on 19 July 2007 that authorised police firearms officers in England and Wales would be able to use Taser in a wider set of circumstances. These officers are now able to deploy Taser in operations or incidents where the use of firearms is not authorised, but where they are facing violence or threats of violence of such severity that they would need to use force to protect the public, themselves or the subject.

Following the success of a 12 month trial in 10 police forces, I agreed on 24 November 2008 to allow chief officers of all forces in England and Wales, from 1 December 2008, to extend the use of Taser to specially trained units in accordance with current Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) policy and guidance. This sets out that Taser can only be used by specially trained units where officers would be facing violence or threats of violence of such severity that they would need to use force to protect the public, themselves and/or the subject(s).

I announced on 24 November 2008 that the Home Office would be making available a one-off injection of funding to support the purchase of up to 10,000 Tasers for use by police forces in England and Wales based on their own operational requirements.

Sexual Offences: Rural Areas

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many recorded rapes against women in rural areas there were in each of the last 10 years; and what the sanction detection rates were in each case; [260931]

(2) how many cases of rape against women were recorded by each police force in each of the last 10 years; and what the sanction detection rate was in each case. [260934]

Jacqui Smith: The available information is given in the following tables. Sanction detection rates are only available from 2002-03.

Table 1: Offences of rape of a female recorded by the police, 1998-99 to 2001-02[1]

Police force	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*
'Rural' forces[2]				
Cambridgeshire	79	97	102	144
Cumbria	43	33	37	44
Devon and Cornwall	163	150	168	165
Durham	54	58	49	71
Dyfed-Powys	37	49	46	46
Gloucestershire	51	63	85	49
Lincolnshire	59	51	63	105
Norfolk	99	82	103	103
North Wales	68	88	89	111
North Yorkshire	42	39	46	65
Suffolk	81	80	94	112
West Mercia	96	86	105	160
Wiltshire	84	78	72	83
'Non-rural' forces				
Avon and Somerset	160	146	188	202
Bedfordshire	62	92	81	88
British Transport Police	—	—	n/a	n/a
Cheshire	105	62	80	69
Cleveland	47	45	36	54
Derbyshire	103	98	102	113
Dorset	49	61	67	108
Essex	174	184	153	190
Greater Manchester	514	512	506	526
Gwent	77	96	76	101
Hampshire	171	228	257	279
Hertfordshire	48	63	82	81
Humberside	117	160	134	151
Kent	154	131	169	171
Lancashire	147	136	182	179
Leicestershire	138	141	142	152
London, City of	4	1	2	9
Merseyside	167	219	214	256
Metropolitan Police	1,900	2,142	2,044	2,336
Northamptonshire	57	42	56	91
Northumbria	238	227	208	259
Nottinghamshire	153	210	211	227
South Wales	147	115	115	112
South Yorkshire	97	114	112	105
Staffordshire	110	175	182	197
Surrey	62	72	119	110
Sussex	190	198	237	215
Thames Valley	181	218	243	260
Warwickshire	29	19	25	30
West Midlands	355	481	489	553
West Yorkshire[3]	400	449	348	406

n/a = Not available.
[1] The data in this table are prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.
[2] The defining of rural police force areas within England and Wales has been taken in accordance with the ACORN ("A Classification Of Residential Neighbourhoods") guidance as published in the Statistical Bulletin 01/02 "Rural Crime England and Wales". The data cover 13 forces which ACORN defines as either 'Most Rural' (Dyfed-Powys, Lincolnshire, North Yorkshire and North Wales) or 'Less Rural' (Cambridgeshire, Cumbria, Devon and Cornwall, Durham, Gloucestershire, Norfolk, Suffolk, West Mercia and Wiltshire).

Table 2: Offences of rape of a female recorded by the police, 2002-03 to 2007-08[1]

Police force	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
'Rural' forces[2]						
Cambridgeshire	177	216	219	193	193	198
Cumbria	61	71	73	73	63	78
Devon and Cornwall	255	303	340	361	355	360
Durham	53	68	83	129	76	117
Dyfed-Powys	44	99	94	79	92	66
Gloucestershire	109	97	105	145	150	130
Lincolnshire	138	156	164	169	147	154
Norfolk	170	196	170	209	147	128
North Wales	106	132	140	156	99	142
North Yorkshire	126	115	132	134	128	121
Suffolk	143	166	169	192	161	151
West Mercia	203	210	199	212	208	229
Wiltshire	147	131	97	138	141	128
'Non-rural' forces						
Avon and Somerset	361	447	427	295	393	352
Bedfordshire	116	139	140	188	141	106
Cheshire	194	172	184	165	150	140
Cleveland	96	139	135	158	125	130
Derbyshire	185	221	257	253	253	217
Dorset	128	137	149	166	115	192
Essex	281	316	320	352	324	264
Greater Manchester	667	790	812	769	767	712
Gwent	137	77	103	112	132	164
Hampshire	342	430	573	618	592	549
Hertfordshire	160	149	179	197	179	163
Humberside	239	330	286	323	264	237
Kent	291	268	329	413	368	379
Lancashire	225	261	249	299	257	232
Leicestershire	257	230	291	287	275	315
London, City of	3	3	7	5	8	3
Merseyside	320	360	342	356	274	231
Metropolitan Police	2,500	2,417	2,382	2,249	2,144	1,792
Northamptonshire	158	144	116	152	147	138
Northumbria	313	305	306	325	307	232
Nottinghamshire	225	273	230	236	223	209
South Wales	176	177	165	193	240	232
South Yorkshire	181	170	261	294	241	219
Staffordshire	236	226	275	267	265	224
Surrey	127	139	120	135	134	144
Sussex	327	276	404	399	413	293
Thames Valley	335	409	377	425	411	356
Warwickshire	59	73	63	75	93	96
West Midlands	679	707	682	856	834	748
West Yorkshire	514	572	526	558	579	563

[1] The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.
[2] The defining of rural police force areas within England and Wales has been taken in accordance with the ACORN ("A Classification Of Residential Neighbourhoods") guidance as published in the Statistical Bulletin 01/02 "Rural Crime England and Wales". The data cover 13 forces which ACORN defines as either 'Most Rural' (Dyfed-Powys, Lincolnshire, North Yorkshire and North Wales) or 'Less Rural' (Cambridgeshire, Cumbria, Devon and Cornwall, Durham, Gloucestershire, Norfolk, Suffolk, West Mercia and Wiltshire).

Table 3: Sanction detection rates for offences of rape of a female, 2002-03 to 2007-08

Police force	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	Percentage 2007-08
'Rural' forces[1]						
Cambridgeshire	19	11	21	21	15	17
Cumbria	36	28	29	37	43	24
Devon and Cornwall	26	17	22	14	19	17

Table 3: Sanction detection rates for offences of rape of a female, 2002-03 to 2007-08

Police force	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*Percentage 2007-08*
Durham	n/a	n/a	51	22	45	44
Dyfed-Powys	43	25	30	15	28	21
Gloucestershire	29	27	26	19	19	31
Lincolnshire	32	21	24	20	22	18
Norfolk	18	19	17	21	22	21
North Wales	20	23	24	20	14	15
North Yorkshire	36	37	32	25	38	24
Suffolk	29	27	17	23	18	17
West Mercia	30	33	27	26	17	22
Wiltshire	23	24	25	31	18	21
'Non-rural' forces						
Avon and Somerset	22	21	17	22	20	24
Bedfordshire	30	20	23	21	15	18
British Transport Police	55	48	18	35	31	21
Cheshire	31	26	26	25	27	28
Cleveland	41	29	20	37	33	26
Derbyshire	33	31	26	29	19	29
Dorset	21	17	15	16	29	17
Essex	21	24	21	23	22	19
Greater Manchester	32	27	28	28	31	36
Gwent	62	57	35	37	31	18
Hampshire	35	28	23	19	19	18
Hertfordshire	31	39	28	34	26	20
Humberside	19	19	20	22	25	22
Kent	37	28	20	19	23	25
Lancashire	50	32	35	35	34	28
Leicestershire	22	26	22	16	20	12
London, City of	67	0	0	0	0	0
Merseyside	37	26	22	18	22	18
Metropolitan Police	26	26	25	31	33	33
Northamptonshire	39	27	28	26	23	20
Northumbria	31	27	24	26	29	29
Nottinghamshire	33	25	32	25	30	23
South Wales	61	51	57	30	29	40
South Yorkshire	38	36	29	22	27	30
Staffordshire	30	28	27	22	23	23
Surrey	24	33	21	30	27	24
Sussex	22	21	14	18	13	19
Thames Valley	25	17	22	21	19	18
Warwickshire	24	15	24	19	16	19
West Midlands	42	31	25	30	24	24
West Yorkshire	30	28	24	21	17	24

n/a = not available

[1] The defining of rural police force areas within England and Wales has been taken in accordance with the ACORN ("A Classification Of Residential Neighbourhoods") guidance as published in the Statistical Bulletin 01/02 "Rural Crime England and Wales". The data cover 13 forces which ACORN defines as either 'Most Rural' (Dyfed-Powys, Lincolnshire, North Yorkshire and North Wales) or 'Less Rural' (Cambridgeshire, Cumbria, Devon and Cornwall, Durham, Gloucestershire, Norfolk, Suffolk, West Mercia and Wiltshire).

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Learning and Skills Council

10. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many funding decisions originally planned to be made in financial year 2008-09 by the Learning and Skills Council relating to university projects have not been made in accordance with the originally planned timetable; and if he will make a statement. [262859]

Mr. Denham: Between 1997 and 2007, this Government has invested more than £2 billion in FE capital. We will spend another £2.3 billion in the current spending review period. This investment has meant more than 700 projects in 330 colleges have been agreed.

Last week the LSC approved eight new capital projects following its assessment of colleges currently seeking approval and we will provide more than £300 million to support these projects. The LSC has also completed its assessment of other colleges seeking approval in principle or detail. I am informed that the LSC has already given 79 colleges the first stage of approval in principle. A further 65 colleges have submitted bids to the national LSC for approval in principle.

As a consequence, there are many more schemes currently in preparation than can be funded in this spending round. For that reason, I agreed with the LSC that they would appoint an independent reviewer—

Sir Andrew Foster—to find out how this situation arose and what lessons must be learnt for the future.

Further Education Capital Projects

11. **Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much is planned to be spent on capital projects in further education in 2009-10. [262860]

Mr. Simon: The expected total DIUS capital budget allocated to the Learning and Skills Council in 2009-10 is £609 million. This is part of our overall investment in FE capital over the current spending review of £2.3 billion—we have brought forward £220 million of this investment into earlier years as part of our response to the economic downturn and we anticipate spending the full £2.3 billion in this spending review period.

Basford Hall Campus

12. **Mr. Allen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what progress has been made on redevelopment of Basford Hall campus. [262861]

Mr. Simon: I understand that New College Nottingham has submitted a capital proposal to the Learning and Skills Council for a new campus at Basford Hall, seeking approval in principle.

However, LSC's assessment of current colleges proposals seeking approval in principle and in detail has demonstrated that there are many more schemes currently in preparation than can be funded in this spending round. We have agreed with the LSC that Sir Andrew Foster will undertake an independent review to understand how this position arose and what lessons must be learnt. The LSC will also now consult with the Association of Colleges and other FE sector representatives to advise on ways of prioritising schemes in the future programme.

The Basford Hall scheme will therefore need to be considered as part of this consultation on prioritisation.

Apprenticeships

13. **Mr. Bruce George:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department plans to take to increase the number of people beginning apprenticeships. [262862]

Mr. Simon: We are taking a wide range of steps to encourage more people to take up apprenticeships and for more employers to offer high quality places. In 2007-08 we saw a record high 225,000 people starting an apprenticeship, up from 65,000 in 1996-97. Completion rates are also at a record high with 64 per cent. successfully completing an apprenticeship—up from 37 per cent. in 2004-05. Last year 420 young people and adults started an apprenticeship in Walsall South, the highest number for five years. We also believe apprenticeships can play a key role in our response to the current economic downturn. The Prime Minister recently announced a £140 million package to provide an extra 35,000 apprenticeship places, of which at least 21,000 will be in the public sector. To continue to raise awareness and encourage more employers to take on or offer more apprenticeships, a national advertising campaign started last month fronted by Sir Alan Sugar.

Unemployment New Skills

14. **Miss Kirkbride:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what plans he has to encourage more private sector skills training providers to offer skills training to the unemployed. [262863]

Mr. Denham: We have, and will continue, to encourage private providers to play an important role in offering skills training to the unemployed.

This Government is spending £4.7 billion on adult skills this year. Nearly 20 per cent. of the Adult Learner Responsive and Employer Responsive budget was allocated through private providers in 2008-09.

The majority of providers for the Employability Skills Programme are private providers. In response to the downturn, we announced in December an additional £100 million to support at least 40,000 people to have extra employability training. Private providers were eligible to apply to offer this training.

19. **Liz Blackman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department is taking to provide assistance for retraining to individuals who lose their jobs. [262871]

Mr. Denham: I refer my right hon. Friend to the answer I gave earlier to the my hon. Friend the Member for Stockton, South (Ms Taylor).

Critical Thinking and Philosophy

16. **Dr. Pugh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his policy is on the provision of courses in critical thinking and philosophy in English universities. [262865]

Mr. Lammy: The number of philosophy students going into higher education has increased by 15 per cent. between 2003-04 and 2008-09. There is strong demand from students, therefore, and a healthy supply of courses at English universities.

The Government only take action on the provision of courses in higher education when they are considered to be both strategically important and vulnerable.

Apprenticeships Wirral, South

17. **Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many residents of Wirral, South constituency have received funding for apprenticeships in 2008-09. [262866]

Mr. Simon: 380 residents of the Wirral, South constituency started an apprenticeship in 2007-08, the latest complete year for which fully audited information is available.

Adult Learning

18. **Mr. Goodwill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what plans he has to increase opportunities for adult learning during the recession. [262868]

Mr. Denham: I refer my hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier to my hon. Friend the Member for Stockton, South (Ms Taylor)

Longbridge College

20. **Richard Burden:** To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the contribution the proposed new college at Longbridge will make to skills, training and further education in the South Birmingham area. [262872]

Mr. Simon: The impact that skills can have on local economic regeneration is significant. The work undertaken between the Learning and Skills Council, the Jobcentre Plus, Regional Development Agency, local businesses and other partners in the Longbridge and South Birmingham area is a clear example of the difference that skills can make in response to economic challenges.

We recognise that college capital projects such as the proposed development of the Longbridge site as part of Bournville college's capital plans can also have a significant impact on local economic regeneration. Bournville college's capital proposals which include the development of a new college at the Longbridge site has been given approval in principle and as part of the approval process, the Learning and Skills Council will have assessed, among other things, the educational case of the scheme, including its skills contribution to the local area.

The Learning and Skills Council has now completed its assessment of colleges seeking approval in principle and in detail which has confirmed there are many more schemes currently in preparation than can be funded in this spending round.

The LSC will therefore consult with the Association of Colleges and other FE sector representatives to advise me on ways of prioritising schemes in the future. As a result, the Longbridge scheme will be subject to the outcome of this consultation.

Apprentices: Public Sector

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many apprenticeship places there have been in the public sector in each of the last 10 years. [261918]

Mr. Simon: We do not hold centrally data for the number of apprentices there have been in the public sector. The labour force survey estimates that less than 10 per cent. of apprentices are in the public sector but does not provide accurate figures for each of the last 10 years.

The Government are committed to rebuilding apprenticeships and have announced an additional 21,000 places in the public sector in the next financial year.

Since 1997, we have witnessed a renaissance in apprenticeships from a low point of 65,000 to a record 225,000 apprenticeship starts in 2007/08. Completion rates are also at a record high with 64 per cent. successfully completing an apprenticeship—up from 37 per cent. in 2004/05.

Departmental Public Appointments

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what information his Department holds on the number of persons appointed to executive positions in bodies for which his Department has responsibility in the last five years who previously had careers in the banking industry. [261236]

Mr. Simon: This information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Further Education: Finance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills with reference to the written ministerial statement of 4 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 55WS, on capital spending programmes in further education colleges, which colleges have been given the first stage of approval in principle by the Learning and Skills Council; and which colleges have submitted bids to the Learning and Skills Council for approval in principle. [262698]

Mr. Simon: Capital funding for further education colleges is administered by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). As the information requested pertains to decisions and records held by the Council, I have asked Mark Haysom, the LSC Chief Executive, to write to the hon. Gentleman with the further information requested. A copy of his letter will be placed in the House Libraries.

Further Education: West Midlands

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent assessment he has made of the availability of resources to fund capital projects in the further education sector in the West Midlands; and if he will make a statement. [261760]

Mr. Simon: Since 1997 more than £2 billion has been invested in modernising further education facilities and we will spend another £2.3 billion in the current spending review period.

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC)—which administers the programme—met on 4 March where it was decided to give detailed approval to eight schemes, including city of Stoke-on-Trent sixth-form college and Solihull college, both of which are in the West Midlands.

However, from an LSC assessment of the overall programme, it is clear that even at current record levels of funding, not all schemes can be implemented on the time scales originally envisaged. We have therefore asked the council to consult with the Association of Colleges and the FE sector to advise us on ways of prioritising schemes in the future programme. We have also agreed with the council that they would appoint an independent reviewer—Sir Andrew Foster—to find out how this situation arose and what lessons must be learnt for the future.

The short consultation will allow the LSC to confirm what the position is for those colleges that are currently developing capital proposals, including those within the West Midlands.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of school leavers resident in *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency and *(b)* Essex went on to higher education in each of the last 10 years. [261771]

Mr. Lammy: The following table shows the number of 18-year-old entrants to undergraduate courses from West Chelmsford constituency and Essex local authority. It is not possible to identify the number of school leavers from these areas who did not enter higher education. It is not possible to identify whether entrants to higher education, from West Chelmsford constituency and Essex local authority, attended schools or FE colleges.

18-year-old undergraduate entrants[1] from West Chelmsford constituency[2] and Essex local authority[2] to UK higher education institutions[3], academic years 1998-99 to 2007-08

Academic year	*West Chelmsford*	*Essex*
1998-99	255	2,920
1999-2000	270	3,035
2000-01	320	3,060
2001-02	285	3,140
2002-03	320	3,295
2003-04	350	3,290
2004-05	335	3,380
2005-06	365	3,655
2006-07	385	3,670
2007-08	385	3,940

[1] Covers entrants studying both full-time and part-time courses
[2] Parliamentary constituency and local authority are defined by full and valid home postcodes, returned by the student to HESA.
[3] Excludes the Open University due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants across the time series.
Note:
Figures are based on a snapshot as at 1 December and are rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Measurement

Michael Jabez Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what guidelines his Department issues on the enforcement of legal provisions in respect of imperial measurements. [262848]

Mr. Lammy: LACORS—the Local Authority Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services—has published guidance in the past on enforcement of units of measurement legislation. My officials are working together with LACORS—as well as other interested parties across Government—to provide updated guidance to reflect the changes to the Units of Measurement Directive (80/181/EC) which will be implemented into UK law later this year, and to ensure that enforcement in this area remains proportionate and in the public interest.

Redundancy: Vocational Training

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department is taking to provide retraining for highly skilled workers who have been made redundant. [262870]

Mr. Simon: It is essential for the UK economy and for the individual themselves, that highly skilled workers have the opportunities and support to retrain for the jobs of the future. The £50 million Economic Challenge Investment Fund announced earlier this year will support them in a range of professional development courses, and access to specialist advice and guidance, as will the tripling of the number of professional and career development loans also recently announced. I am also aware that a number of universities are using savings from the reduction in VAT, announced last year by the Chancellor, to support those who have been made redundant or are at risk of being so.

Students: Loans

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Bristol, West (Stephen Williams) of 9 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1266W, on higher education: EU nationals, how many times the Student Loans Company has successfully enforced repayment of loans from students domiciled in the EU but not in the UK using *(a)* external trace agents, *(b)* international debt collection companies and (c) EC regulation 44/2001; [260877]

(2) how many times the Student Loans Company has attempted to enforce repayment of student loans from students domiciled in the EU but not in the UK using *(a)* external trace agents, *(b)* international debt collection companies and *(c)* EC regulation 44/2001. [260878]

Mr. Lammy: EU students became eligible for tuition fee loans when they were introduced in 2006/07. The first full cohort of EU borrowers will graduate this summer, and will become due to start repaying their loans from April 2010. However, a small number have left their courses early, and became due to repay in either April 2007 or April 2008.

Effective collection of student loans across the EU is underpinned by EC regulation 44/2001, which allows the Student Loans Company (SLC) to obtain judgments in UK courts which can be enforced by courts in other EU countries.

Up to 3 March 2009, the SLC had contacted 54 EU borrowers in order to start this legal process. They were students who had studied in England and who are now resident overseas, but have not complied with the overseas repayment rules. Since attempting to enforce payment in this way, the SLC has had correspondence from 45 of the 54. SLC continues to pursue the remaining nine to enforce repayment.

The SLC has not yet used external trace agents nor international debt collection companies but plans to do so later this year.

Training: Learning Disability

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he is taking to ensure that courses for people with learning disabilities are tailored to their needs. [260533]

Mr. Lammy: Higher education institutions and further education colleges have a duty under Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) legislation to ensure that 'reasonable adjustments' are put in place for disabled people and through the disability equality duty to proactively promote disability equality in the public sector. Although course provision and delivery is a matter for the education institutions themselves, Government expect institutions to take account of the needs of disabled learners as part of an inclusive approach on these matters. I am pleased to say that the National Student Forum has been active in this area, ensuring that the voices of disabled students are heard.

Unemployed

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his latest assessment is of the effects of the recession on the number of young people over the age of 18 who are not in education, employment or training. [262869]

Mr. Lammy: The proportion of young people who are "NEET" has fallen over last 10 years. The current economic climate will, of course, make it more difficult for some people to find employment. That is why this Government continue to take action on this agenda.

The New Opportunities White Paper outlines commitment to ensure persistent NEETs have the right support and incentives to move off benefits, or out of inactivity, into education, training or work. We are raising the participation age for education and training to 18, have reformed and expanded apprenticeships, introduced 14-19 diplomas, and are spending £175 million on entry to employment this year.

York University

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what discussions he has had with the University of York on the development of its Heslington East campus. [262867]

Mr. Lammy: We have set out the wide range of benefits which new university campuses can bring to people and places in our new "University Challenge" policy document published last year. We are very pleased with the interest which that has generated. However, we have had no discussions with the University of York on the development of the Heslington campus and any decisions on the merits of this and other similar development proposals have to be taken by the relevant authorities.

JUSTICE

Christmas

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether it is his Department's policy to offer staff *(a)* additional leave entitlement for Christmas shopping and *(b)* Christmas bonus payments. [262817]

Mr. Wills: It is not Ministry of Justice policy to offer staff additional leave entitlement for Christmas shopping. There are no Christmas bonus payments given to Ministry of Justice staff.

Commissioner for Victims and Witnesses

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what expenditure was incurred in the recruitment and appointment of the Commissioner for Victims and Witnesses prior to January 2006. [262555]

Mr. Straw: None. There was no expenditure relating to the Commissioner for Victims and Witnesses prior to 2006.

Community Service Orders: Costs

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what costs his Department incurred in administering each type of community sentence in each of the last five years; and what the average administration costs per offender was. [262341]

Mr. Straw: Probation Boards and Trusts meet the cost of delivering Community Sentences through their grant as they see fit to meet their statutory duties. The Criminal Justice Act 2003 established the new Community Order as a single community sentence with a number of elements in respect of offences committed after 4 April 2005. This replaced the separate community sentences which existed previously. From 2005 to present, cost exercises have been carried out by Probation Boards/Trusts annually and have produced the planned cost of a range of activities. Probation Boards and Trusts spent £614 million in 2007-08 supervising around 244,000 offenders. It is not currently possible to separate the cost of supervising offenders on community sentence as probation caseloads also include significant numbers of offenders who have been released from a custodial sentence or released temporarily into the community. Work is in hand in the National Offender Management Service to ensure that all offender services delivered in custody and in the community are properly specified and costed so that commissioners can ensure that resources are targeted effectively to protect the public and reduce re-offending.

Courts: Domestic Violence

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many specialist domestic violence courts have *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in each year since their establishment. [263071]

Mr. Straw: Specialist domestic violence courts are based on a partnership approach to domestic violence by the police, prosecutors, court staff, the probation service and specialist support services for victims. Agencies work together to identify, track and risk assess domestic violence cases, support victims of domestic violence and share information better so that more offenders are brought to justice.

There were seven specialist domestic violence courts in 2004. Thereafter we have funded an additional 18 specialist domestic violence courts in 2005, 14 in 2006, 25 in 2007 and 40 in 2008. There are therefore currently 104 specialist domestic violence courts.

None of the 104 specialist domestic violence courts have closed since opening.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many specialist domestic violence courts there were in each of the last five years. [263072]

Mr. Straw: The information requested is in the following table.

	Number of specialist domestic violence courts
2004	7
2005	25

	Number of specialist domestic violence courts
2006	39
2007	64
2008	104

Courts: Prison Accommodation

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were held in court cells in each month in the last three years; and at what cost. [262467]

Mr. Straw: Court cells have not been used since 28/29 February 2008.

Court cells were used to accommodate prisoners overnight between January and June 2007, and again in February 2008. Invoices to the value of £2.54 million have to date been paid to escort contractors who staffed the cells. This figure does not include marginal costs such as medical care or utilities

Invoices are not month-specific and therefore we cannot reply on a month-by-month basis

The following table shows the number of places used over this period.

	Total
January 2007	13
March 2007	10
April 2007	44
May 2007	146
June 2007	350
February 2008	1,115
Total	1,678

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff in his Department *(a)* were disciplined and *(b)* had their employment terminated as a result of a poor sickness record in each of the last 12 months. [262226]

Mr. Wills: In the Ministry of Justice (excluding NOMS), the managing attendance policy aims to create an improved attendance culture. Managers are expected to demonstrate understanding towards absence where appropriate, and to take action when absence reaches unacceptable levels.

There are three levels of sanction available in attendance cases; first written warning, final written warning, and dismissal. Central records are held by the number of sanctions issued rather than by the number of staff (ie a member of staff may have received a sanction at more than one level). The following table gives the number of sanctions issued, and of those the terminations, for each of the 12 months ending January 2009.

	Disciplinary sanctions	Of which, employment terminated	Medical retirements
February 2008	32	7	—
March 2008	8	2	—
April 2008	14	1	—
May 2008	15	2	—
June 2008	17	4	—
July 2008	14	1	3
August 2008	10	2	1
September 2008	23	2	—
October 2008	19	3	3
November 2008	20	3	1
December 2008	19	4	2
January 2009	37	4	—

In the National Offender Management Service poor attendance is managed through an unsatisfactory attendance procedure with a number of warning stages, contained within Prison Service Order 8404.

Details of the number of staff who have had their employment terminated as result of a poor sickness record, or because of underlying medical issues, are shown in the following table.

	Medical inefficiency	Unsatisfactory attendance	Medical retirement
February 2008	11	8	6
March 2008	22	4	6
April 2008	18	6	8
May 2008	5	5	6
June 2008	12	3	4
July 2008	21	4	10
August 2008	14	5	5
September 2008	21	3	9
October 2008	12	5	14
November 2008	17	3	9
December 2008	17	3	8
January 2009	15	2	10

Departmental Pay

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many bonuses and at what cost were awarded to senior civil servants working at his Department, its predecessor and its agencies in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; and what estimate he has made of the equivalent figures for 2008-09. [262556]

Mr. Straw: End year non-consolidated performance payments are only paid to high performing members of the senior civil service to reflect their individual contribution during the previous performance year.

(a) During the financial year 2006-07, pay determination was undertaken by the departments that existed prior to the creation of the Ministry. For the former Department for Constitutional Affairs, 116 SCS members received a non-consolidated performance payment at a cost of £866,500.

(b) As pay determination is retrospective, 2007-08 was the first year in which the Ministry of Justice paid awards to SCS staff following the creation of the Ministry in 2007. In 2008, 159 SCS members received a non-consolidated performance payment in the Ministry of Justice at a total cost of £1,648,000.

Following the formation of the Ministry of Justice in May 2007 the number of SCS members increased from 158 to 268.

Pay for all members of the senior civil service in the Ministry of Justice is governed by a centrally determined pay system for which the Cabinet Office is responsible. The Ministry along with all other Departments, applies the pay system to the senior civil service members in accordance with the guidance provided each year by the Cabinet Office following the recommendation of the Senior Salaries Review Body.

Future remuneration including levels of non-consolidated performance payments will depend on the recommendations of this independent review body. It is therefore not possible to estimate payments for 2008-09.

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in his Department and its predecessors earned over £100,000 in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; and how many he expects to do so in 2008-09. [262557]

Mr. Straw: During the financial year 2006-07 the Department had 16 members of the senior civil service earning over £100,000. This figure relates to those staff within Department for Constitutional Affairs as the Ministry of Justice was formed in May 2007. During the financial year 2007-08, 35 members of the senior civil service were earning over £100,000. The numbers are higher as the size of the SCS grew with the transfer of staff from the Home Office on the creation of the Ministry of Justice. The number of staff earning over £100,000 as at 31 January 2009 is 36 (of approximately 80,000 staff).

Electoral Register

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to utilise the proposed data-sharing provisions in the Coroners and Justice Bill to facilitate data-sharing between public authorities in relation to collation of the electoral register. [262624]

Mr. Wills: There are no plans. However, the Electoral Administration Act 2006 introduced a new, explicit requirement for Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) to take all steps that are necessary for the purpose of complying with their duty to maintain the electoral registers. These steps, as set out in the legislation, include sending the canvass form more than once, making house to house inquiries in connection with the canvass, making contact by such other means as the ERO thinks appropriate with a person who does not have an entry in the register, and inspecting any record that the ERO is permitted by law to inspect. These records are those held by the local authority and include council tax, land and property, housing benefit and educational where available. It is for each ERO to decide on the best steps to use in conjunction with their local knowledge to ensure that requirements for making contact with persons and maintaining the register are complied with.

The Government remain concerned about the need to address levels of under-registration in Great Britain. To this end, we have recently tabled amendments to the Political Parties and Elections Bill, that will allow the Secretary of State to pilot data matching schemes, under which public authorities will provide registration officers with information to assist them in maintaining an accurate and comprehensive register. In addition, we plan to introduce secondary legislation to enable EROs in areas where there are two-tiers of local government to be able to access data held by the higher tier to help them identify individuals who are not registered to vote. This will mirror arrangements in place for EROs in single tier areas.

Electoral Register: Northern Ireland

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the Answer of 6 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1900W, on electoral register, what assessment he has made of the reasons for 13 of the 20 councils with the lowest electoral registration rates being in Northern Ireland. [263083]

Mr. Wills: The Government have not made any such assessment as the National Statistician notes in the answer given on 6 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1900W. Care should be taken when interpreting the figures provided in that answer, and the answer goes on to list some of the reasons for that.

However, recent figures published by the Office for National Statistics reveal that as of 1 December 2008, the number of local government electors in Northern Ireland had increased by 16,578 (1.5 per cent.) to 1,142,513. This rise was greater than those recorded for the same period in England (0.3 per cent.), Scotland (0.1 per cent.) and Wales (0.5 per cent.).

The Government have recently announced plans to put in place a statutory timetable for the introduction of individual registration in Great Britain; begin the rollout of measures to prepare both the public and the electoral system for that change; and put in place a series of tests, that will be independently assessed by the Electoral Commission, to ensure that the shift is only made once the system is ready for it. Northern Ireland already has a system of individual registration in place and we will want to learn from their experiences to ensure that registration rates are maximised. It is essential that the electoral register is both comprehensive and accurate.

In addition, we have tabled amendments to the Political Parties and Elections Bill that will allow the Secretary of State to pilot data matching schemes under which public authorities will provide registration officers with information to assist them in maintaining an accurate and comprehensive register. We also plan to introduce secondary legislation to enable EROs in areas where there are two tiers of local government to be able to access data held by the higher tier to help them identify individuals who are not registered to vote. This will mirror arrangements in place for EROs in single tier areas.

Firearms: Convictions

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were convicted for *(a)* possessing and *(b)* distributing prohibited (i) weapons and (ii) ammunition in each police force area in the last five years. [262464]

Mr. Straw: Information on the number of persons found guilty at all courts for offences of possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition in England and Wales, by police force area from 2003 to 2007 (latest available) can be found in the table. The Criminal statistics data for 2008 are due to be published in November 2009.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the following table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

The number of persons found guilty at all courts for offences relating to possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition in England and Wales, by police force area, 2003-07[1,2,3]

Force	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Avon and Somerset	20	18	25	21	23
Bedfordshire	9	7	6	4	6
Cambridgeshire	12	4	3	8	9
Cheshire	4	20	11	16	11
City of London	2	5	0	1	1
Cleveland	11	11	13	8	9
Cumbria	4	8	8	3	13
Derbyshire	6	15	17	13	21
Devon and Cornwall	16	15	12	11	15
Dorset	8	7	8	8	12
Durham	12	11	14	6	15
Essex	18	29	22	26	29
Gloucestershire	9	6	6	5	4
Greater Manchester	55	115	108	94	83
Hampshire	16	15	28	24	24
Hertfordshire	5	16	23	23	24
Humberside	9	14	17	11	10
Kent	22	18	11	28	20
Lancashire	15	22	27	18	22
Leicestershire	16	17	17	16	22
Lincolnshire	5	6	6	6	4
Merseyside	25	54	68	56	53
Metropolitan Police	297	268	302	317	386
Norfolk	2	12	9	9	10
North Yorkshire	6	3	3	5	8
Northamptonshire	4	4	7	2	4
Northumbria	45	38	38	34	31
Nottinghamshire	28	23	27	30	39
South Yorkshire	21	23	27	35	25
Staffordshire	8	15	13	9	26
Suffolk	7	7	6	8	7
Surrey	6	7	4	7	12
Sussex	14	18	21	15	22
Thames Valley	20	24	22	20	34
Warwickshire	4	7	6	6	7
West Mercia	5	11	6	11	10
West Midlands	66	72	69	78	91
West Yorkshire	33	52	51	47	30
Wiltshire	4	6	10	7	1
Dyfed-Powys	5	4	4	1	2
Gwent	4	6	4	7	7
North Wales	3	7	5	8	12
South Wales	18	21	24	15	23
England and Wales	899	1,061	1,108	1,077	1,217

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Includes the following Statutes and corresponding offence descriptions:
Firearms Act. 1968 Sec 5(1) (Group I) as amended by Criminal justice Act 2003 S.288—Possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition.
Firearms Act 1968 Sec 5(1)(b) (Group I) as amended by Criminal Justice Act 2003 Sec.288—Possessing or distributing prohibited weapons designed for discharge of noxious liquid etc.
Firearms Act 1968 Sec 5(1A)(a) (Group I) as amended by Criminal Justice Act 2003 Sec.288—Possessing or distributing firearm disguised as other object
Firearms Act 1968 Sec 5(1A) (b),(c),(d)(e),(f) or (g) as amended by Criminal Justice Act 2003 Sec 288—Possessing or distributing other prohibited weapons
Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform, Evidence and Analysis Unit

Land Registry

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much the Land Registry has budgeted to spend on the Business Gateway service in the next five year period from 1 March 2009; [263271]

(2) how much the Land Registry spent on the Business Gateway service up to 1 March 2009. [263272]

Mr. Wills: Land Registry has only budgeted for the development of the Business Gateway for 12 months from 1 April 2009. This budget includes £266,290 for internal staff and other support costs. In addition there is a sum to cover an external contract but Land Registry believes that providing the budgeted spend for this would prejudice its commercial interests.

Land Registry spent £532,130 on the Business Gateway up to 11 March 2009. There are additional costs that have been incurred for work carried out but not yet invoiced by the contractor under commercial arrangements.

Legal Advice and Assistance: Travelling People

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 917W, on legal advice and assistance: Travelling people, in which planning inquiries the Legal Services Commission funded representation for Travellers through its exceptional funding scheme in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09; and what the case reference number was for each such inquiry. [259577]

Mr. Malik: The MoJ has authorised the LSC to grant funding, through the exceptional funding scheme, for Gypsies and Travellers to be represented at a planning inquiry involving each of the following authorities:

In the financial year 2007-08:

Tunbridge Wells County Council
Basildon District Council
North Somerset Council (two cases)
Tandridge District Council
Dartford Borough Council
South Staffordshire District Council
Surrey Heath Borough Council
London Borough of Bromley
Bath and North East Somerset Council
Wyre Forest District Council
Lewes District Council
South Somerset District Council
(Authorities for three cases cannot be confirmed)

In the financial year 2008-09 (to date):

Mid Devon District Council
Rother District Council
Chichester District Council
Canterbury City Council
Kent County Council
Bedford Borough Council
Lewes District Council
Ashford Borough Council

The case reference numbers for planning inquiries are not held centrally by the LSC or the MoJ.

Legal Aid Scheme

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many legal firms have *(a)* stopped and *(b)* started doing legal aid work in each of the last five years. [255254]

Mr. Malik: Table 1 shows the number of solicitor offices starting legal aid work as part of the Criminal Defence Service (CDS) for criminal matters and the Community Legal Service (CLS) for civil matters in each of the last five financial years.

Table 2 shows the number of solicitor offices leaving the Criminal Defences Service in each of the past five financial years. For the Community Legal Service the table shows the combined total of solicitors offices leaving plus accounts expiring or terminated.

The figures are given in terms of numbers of offices rather than firms. This is because prior to the introduction of the civil unified contract in April 2007 and criminal unified contract in July 2008, legal aid providers delivering services in more than one office would hold separate contracts for each of those offices. In addition, where providers have decided not to continue providing civil legal aid services, they may nevertheless still have an account or accounts with the Legal Services Commission while they continue to deal with their remaining clients.

Over the period there has been a downward trend in the overall number of solicitor offices dealing with legal aid. This is because there has been a continuing process of offices that do only small amounts of legal aid work leaving the market or merging with other offices, so that the work is done in larger volumes at fewer offices. In addition, the Legal Services Commission has over time sought to terminate dormant accounts where no work was being done.

The key issue in delivering access to clients is ensuring there are sufficient providers in the right places to deliver a good level of service. At 31 March 2008 there were a total of 3,627 civil provider offices and 2,230 crime provider offices. More importantly, the number of acts of assistance delivered to legal aid clients has increased over the last few years. Clients can also access civil legal advice from not-for-profit organisations, plus the Community Legal Advice telephone line and website.

Table 1: Number of solicitor offices starting legal aid work as part of the CDS and CLS

	CDS	CLS
2003-04	161	128
2004-05	109	124
2005-06	144	138
2006-07	75	73
2007-08	100	[1]32

Table 2: Number of solicitor offices leaving the CDS and CLS plus accounts expiring

	CDS	CLS
2003-04	296	255
2004-05	246	270
2005-06	209	[2]1,131
2006-07	171	471
2007-08	127	208

[1] Although the LSC ran a civil bid round in late 2007, it can take some time for providers to start work after a successful application for a new contract, so several new providers would not have appeared on the LSC's systems until the next financial year.
[2] This is due to an exercise to clear dormant accounts.

Powers of Entry: Local Government

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the Government has plans to extend local authority enforcement powers to include the use of bailiffs to undertake forced entry. [262677]

Bridget Prentice: I refer the hon. Member to my answer to the hon. Member for North-West Norfolk (Mr. Bellingham) on 3 March 2009. *Official Report*, column 1497W. The enforcement provisions in the Tribunals, Court and Enforcement Act 2007 are far-reaching reforms. The provisions have recently undergone a comprehensive reassessment by Ministers to ensure that they remain appropriate even under this difficult financial climate. This assessment has now been concluded and a statement will be made shortly.

Prisoners Release: Re-offenders

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners recalled from release on end-of-custody licence for re-offending have been convicted of offences committed while on licence in each prison service region since the end-of-custody licence scheme was introduced. [262558]

Mr. Straw: Figures for the numbers of prisoners on End of Custody Licence (ECL) who have been recalled for alleged re-offending and are subsequently convicted by Prison Service area are not centrally collated in most cases. To provide the information requested would involve the manual examination of hundreds of individual records which could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Data on End of Custody Licence releases, recalls and alleged re-offending is published every month on the following website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/endofcustodylicence.htm

Prisons: Drugs

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many visitors to prisons were found to be in possession of illegal drugs in each year since 1997; how many such visitors were referred to the police; and what steps were taken in respect of those not referred to the police. [262465]

Mr. Hanson: The data are not available in the format requested.

It is the National Offender Management Service's policy for all prison visitors found in possession of illicit drugs to be referred to the police.

As a result, of which, the number of arrests made by police of prison visitors since 1999-2000 is given in the following table.

	Number of arrests
1999-2000	728
2000-01	499
2001-02	526
2002-03	404
2003-04	448
2004-05	439
2005-06	429
2006-07	374
2007-08	424

Data was not recorded prior to 1999-2000.

The fall in arrests from 1999-2000 to 2002-03 is most likely linked to the introduction of measures to deal with visitors and prisoners who smuggle drugs through visits through Prison Service Order 3610 (March 1999). The order introduced a consistent and robust approach to visitors smuggling drugs across the prison estate. From 2002-03 the number of arrests has stabilised. The average number of arrests from 2002-03 to 2006-07 is 419, which is similar to the number recorded for 2007-08.

The fall in visitor arrests broadly corresponds to the fall in drug misuse in prisons, as measured by random mandatory drug testing, which has declined by 63 per cent. since 1996-97. This demonstrates the success of the prisons drug strategy which has occurred in the context of an increased prison population and a corresponding increase in the number of visitors.

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. The data are not subject to audit.

Prisons: Religion

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what provisions are made to allow prisoners who are druids to practise their beliefs in prison. [262428]

Mr. Straw: Information on the practice of religion in prisons is set out in Prison Service Order 4550, a copy of which is in the House Library and which I shall send to the hon. Member. This contains information on the various traditions within Paganism, including Druidry.

Prisons: Young Offenders

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many under-21-year-olds are being held in each prison service establishment. [261658]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the numbers of young adults and 15 to 17-year-olds held in each prison establishment in England and Wales at the end of January 2009.

Young adults are those aged 18-20 and those 21-year-olds who were aged 20 or under at conviction who have not been reclassified as part of the adult population.

Establishments operate a policy that young adult remands (18-21 year olds) do not cell share with adult remands. Remanded young adults are either placed into dedicated young offender institutes or into local 'adult' prisons. Where accommodation is within the main adult estate, young adults would not share with adults.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing, and have been rounded to the nearest

ten. Consequently, rounded figures may not sum to totals. Only those establishments that have at least one young offender are shown.

Prison establishments	Total young persons
Altcourse	190
Ashfield	360
Askham Grange	10
Aylesbury	440
Bedford	0
Belmarsh	10
Birmingham	10
Brinsford	560
Bristol	40
Brixton	0
Bronzfield	30
Castington	360
Chelmsford	240
Cookham Wood	120
Deerbolt	440
Doncaster	290
Dorchester	30
Dover	30
Downview	20
Drake Hall	20
Durham	0
East Sutton Park	0
Eastwood Park	80
Elmley	70
Exeter	60
Feltham	600
Forest Bank	130
Foston Hall	20
Glen Parva	740
Gloucester	10
Hadar	20
High Down	120
Hindley	420
Hollesley Bay	40
Holloway	90
Holme House	0
Hull	130
Huntercombe	300
Lancaster Farms	300
Leeds	0
Lewes	40
Lincoln	20
Low Newton	40
Manchester	10
Moorland Closed	340
Moorland Open	60
New Hall	70
Northallerton	200
Norwich	130
Onley	240
Parc	570
Pentonville	0
Peterborough	70
Portland	610
Reading	230
Rochester	610
Stoke Heath	550
Styal	70
Swansea	0
Swinfen Hall	510
Thorn Cross	160
Wandsworth	0
Warren Hill	200
Werrington	160
Wetherby	370
Woodhill	100

Security Guards: Recruitment

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library a copy of the business case produced by the Security Industry Authority on the regulation of enforcement agents. [262623]

Bridget Prentice: The Security Industry Authority was asked by the Ministry of Justice to produce a business case to assist in the Department's consideration of the available options for regulation of enforcement agents. On the basis that a number of options remain under consideration, I am unable to publish the business case at this time. Once my Department's policy in this area is finalised, I will place a copy in the Library of both Houses.

Television: Licensing

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* convictions for non-payment of the television licence fee there have been in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [262368]

Maria Eagle: Data showing persons proceeded against at magistrates courts for TV licence evasion in England and Wales, from 2005-07 are shown in the following table. The Criminal Statistics data for 2008 are due to be published in November 2009.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for television licence evasion, England and Wales, 2005-07[1, 2]

	2005[3]	2006[3]	2007[4]
Proceeded against	122,961	130,130	135,548
Found guilty	104,962	15,548	120,908

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] As well as television licence evasion, these data include proceedings for summary offences under the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949 to 1967.

[4] These figures relate to the offence of television licence evasion under the Communications Act 2003.

Wymott Prison: Manpower

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average prisoner to staff ratio at HM Prison Wymott was in each of the last five years. [262397]

Mr. Hanson: Information is only available since 31 March 2006 and is set out in the following table:

Date	*Ratio all staff to prisoners*
31 March 2006	1:2.00
31 March 2007	1:2.05
31 March 2008	1:1.89
31 January 2009	1:2.00

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many organic farmers are registered in *(a)* Hertfordshire and *(b)* Dacorum. [261193]

Jane Kennedy: The number of organic producers registered with the Organic Certification bodies in the county of Hertfordshire, based on data collected at January 2008, is 11. In accordance with National Statistics confidentiality rules, data for Dacorum are not available due to the small number of growers in this area.

Validated information for 2009 is not yet available.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been allocated under Axis 1 of the Rural Development Programme England for 2007 to 2013 for *(a)* vocational training and information actions for persons engaged in the agricultural, food or forestry sectors, *(b)* use of advisory services by farmers and forest holders, *(c)* setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services, as well as forestry advisory services, *(d)* modernisation of agricultural holdings, *(e)* improving the economic value of forests, *(f)* adding value to agricultural and forestry products, *(g)* co-operation for development of new products, processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sector and in the forestry sector, *(h)* improving and developing infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry, *(i)* restoring agricultural production potential damaged by natural disasters and introducing appropriate prevention actions and *(j)* supporting producers groups for information and promotion activities for products under food quality schemes. [261822]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Since the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) was formally approved in December 2007, the funding set out in the following table has been allocated to the respective measures (i.e. committed to projects or programmes of investment). This includes funding devolved to regional development agencies (RDAs) for social and economic support. A small sum allocated by Natural England to agreements under the Energy Crops Scheme is included under the modernisation measure.

A further sum of £21,735,557 has been allocated by RDAs to local action groups to implement axis 1 objectives through the Leader approach, but this is not broken down by measure.

Measure	*Allocation (£)*
(a) Vocational training and information actions	30,004,692
(b) Use of advisory services by farmers and forest holders	735,200
(c) Setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services, as well as forestry advisory services	965,953
(d) Modernisation of agricultural holdings	15,040,120
(e) Improving the economic value of forests	501,559
(f) Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	22,303,690
(g) Co-operation	904,001
(h) Improving and developing infrastructure	3,046,082
(i) Restoring agricultural production potential damaged by natural disasters and introducing appropriate prevention actions	[1]0
(j) Supporting producers groups	[1]0

[1] This measure is not implemented in the RDPE.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding has been allocated under Axis 3 of the Rural Development Programme England 2007 to 2013 for *(a)* diversification into non-agricultural activities, *(b)* support for the creation and development of micro enterprises with a view to promoting entrepreneurship and developing economic fabric, *(c)* encouragement of tourism activities, *(d)* basic services for the economy and rural population and *(e)* conservation and upgrading of rural heritage. [261823]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Since the Rural Development Programme for England was formally approved in December 2007, the funding set out in the following table has been allocated to the respective measures (i.e. committed to projects or programmes of investment). This includes funding devolved to regional development agencies for social and economic support. The sums allocated by Natural England to access agreements, and historic and traditional buildings, under the Environmental Stewardship Scheme are included under the tourism and conservation measures, respectively.

A further sum of £92,540,437 has been allocated by regional development agencies to local action groups to implement Axis 3 objectives through the Leader approach, but this is not broken down by measure.

	£
(a) Diversification into non-agricultural activities	13,003,846
(b) Support for the creation and development of micro enterprises	9,277,963
(c) Encouragement of tourism activities	14,646,421
(d) Basic services for the economy and rural population	2,071,866
(e) Conservation and upgrading of rural heritage	1,268,432

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the amount paid in export refunds in respect of *(a)* pig meat, *(b)* eggs and *(c)* poultry in each of the last five years. [262013]

Jane Kennedy: The total amount of export refunds paid for pigmeat, eggs and poultry in the UK over the last five years can be found in the following table:

Sector	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Pigmeat	160,639.06	141,624.13	99,605.43	82,875.47	197,494.28
Eggs	121,797.04	148,953.33	93,582.82	95,832.13	155,581.47
Poultry	43,647.21	44,860.97	23,024.66	13,579.42	13,141.77

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many applications for Common Agricultural Policy export refunds were made in each project sector in the last 12 months. [262014]

Jane Kennedy: The number of export refund applications for each livestock sector in the UK over the last 12 months can be found in the following table:

Sector	Refund applications
Eggs	161
Poultry	233
Pigmeat	675
Beef and veal	0
Milk and milk products	1,166

Agriculture: Waste Disposal

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farm-based anaerobic digestion plants there are in England; and what estimate his Department has made for benchmarking purposes of the number of such plants operating in other EU member states. [260182]

Jane Kennedy: Figures for the number of farm-based anaerobic digestion plants in England are not collected centrally. To contribute to the development of policy on anaerobic digestion, DEFRA commissioned AEA Technology to undertake a study, "Assessment of Methane Management and Recovery Options for Livestock Manures and Slurries". This was published in 2005 and quoted the following figures for anaerobic digestion plants in EU countries producing electricity:

Country	Agricultural AD plants
Austria	159 +150 to end 2007
Belgium	6
Denmark	58 on-farm [1]20 CAD
France	3
Germany	>3000
Great Britain	<20
Ireland	3
Italy	80
Netherlands	12

[1] Centralised anaerobic digestion. *Note:* Our current best estimate is that the figure for Great Britain is still correct.

Bees: Disease Control

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department has undertaken research on the link between imidacloprid and bee health. [262295]

Jane Kennedy: As part of its pesticides research programme the Government are funding a number of projects in support of the development of the pesticides risk assessment process. A number of these specifically relate to the potential impact of pesticides on honeybees, both from wide scale professional use and home-garden use of insecticides. These projects are still in progress. Previous work on the risk posed to honeybees by systemic insecticides, such as imidacloprid, has fed into the international risk assessment models for honeybees.

The rigorous EU scientific process for approval of pesticide active substances and the supporting national processes for individual products protect human health and the environment, including wildlife, providing products are used in accordance with the approval and any related conditions of approval. This approval process takes account of the potential impact on bees. DEFRA will, of course, act immediately on any concrete evidence of adverse impacts of pesticides on bees which occurs in the UK.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Compensation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will re-evaluate the tabular system for compensation for bovine tuberculosis breakdowns to increase payments for organically-reared animals. [257288]

Jane Kennedy: In 2008, following a legal challenge against the table valuation compensation system, the High Court decided that while table valuations are acceptable for the majority of cattle, they discriminate against owners of high value cattle. DEFRA subsequently lodged an appeal against the decision, which is due to be heard on 16 and 17 March 2009. Decisions about possible modifications to cattle compensation arrangements, including any relating to organic animals, will need to take into account the final judgement in the ongoing legal challenge.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how the composition of his Department's tuberculosis eradication group was determined; and what consideration he gave to inviting a badger ecologist to join the group. [261637]

Jane Kennedy: The composition of the TB Eradication Group was determined through discussions that were held between the Department, the farming industry and veterinary bodies. It was agreed that the group needed to cover the key interests, but to be small enough to allow meaningful discussion. It was therefore decided to restrict membership to Government, the farming industry and the veterinary profession, but for the group to be free to invite experts to contribute to its work as necessary, including representatives of other industry sectors, wider interest groups and specialists such as ecologists and epidemiologists.

Departmental Data Protection

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department uses WPA2 encryption protocol on all its wireless networks. [259721]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Information is a key asset to Government and its correct handling is vital to the delivery of public services and to the integrity of HMG. The Security Policy Framework, the Data Handling Report and the National Information Assurance Strategy produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic framework for protecting information that Government handle and put in place a set of mandatory measures which Departments must adhere to.

Departments follow CESG guidance on the use of the Wi-Fi Protected Access 2 (WPA2) communications security protocols in order to protect wireless networks carrying protectively marked (up to RESTRICTED/IL3) traffic. The configuration and operation standards for WPA2 are set out in CESG's Infosec Manual Y, Use of WPA2 Wireless Security in Government Systems.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what scanning for vulnerabilities his Department conducts of each of its IT devices; what method is used for IT device scans; and how many vulnerabilities have been detected as a result of such scans in the last 12 months. [259724]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Information is a key asset to Government and its correct handling is vital to the delivery of public services and to the integrity of HMG. The Security Policy Framework, the Data Handling Report and the National Information Assurance Strategy produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic framework for protecting information that Government handle and put in place a set of mandatory measures which Departments must adhere to.

It is not in the interest of the security of the Department, or that of the public, to disclose detailed information pertaining to electronic breaches of security of Department's IT systems. Disclosing such information would enable criminals and those who would attempt to cause disruptive threats to the Department to deduce how to conduct attacks and therefore potentially enhance their capability to carry out such attacks.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been claimed in reimbursable expenses by special advisers in his Department in 2008-09 to date. [260353]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Costs incurred on reimbursable expenses in 2008-09, will be available only when the Department's resource accounts are fully audited and laid before Parliament. This is expected to be before the 2009 summer recess.

Departmental Public Appointments

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information his Department holds on the number of persons appointed to executive positions in bodies for which his Department has responsibility in the last five years who previously had careers in the banking industry. [261233]

Huw Irranca-Davies: This information is not held centrally.

Departmental Recycling

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* paper, *(b)* plastic and *(c)* other waste was produced by his Department in each of the last three years; and what proportion of such waste was recycled. [252868]

Jane Kennedy: The following amounts of waste were recycled in each of the last three years:

	2007-08		*2006-07*		*2005-06*	
	Tonnes	*Percentage recycled of total waste produced*	*Tonnes*	*Percentage recycled of total waste produced*	*Tonnes*	*Percentage recycled of total waste produced*
Paper recycled	881	18	860	16	1,142	20
Plastic recycled	39	0.7	16	0.3	13	0.2
Other waste recycled	485	10.6	517	10.2	508	8.9
Other waste (not recycled or incinerated for energy recovery)	1,940	n/a	2,360	n/a	3,012	n/a
Total waste arisings (total waste produced)	4,816	29.1	5,252	26.5	5,716	29.1

DEFRA is not able to provide figures for the different waste streams produced. It is not practical or cost effective to separate waste which is destined for landfill or incineration. Also, many of DEFRA's operations, such as laboratory processes, involve the use of hazardous materials which cannot be separated into different waste streams. For this reason, visibility of DEFRA's waste streams is limited to the quantities of the waste recycled.

It should be noted that a large proportion of DEFRA's waste is incinerated with energy recovery—1,465 tonnes in 2007-08 (30 per cent.), 1,499 tonnes in 2006-07 (28 per cent.) and 1,041 (18 per cent.) in 2005-06. Although waste used for energy recovery cannot be classed as "recycled" the energy produced from its incineration is used in buildings on the DEFRA Estate.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Peterborough of 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1049W, on domestic waste: waste disposal, what the terms of reference are of the research on waste prevention scheduled to report in spring 2009; and which external organisation is conducting the research. [252718]

Jane Kennedy: The review study referred to in the reply to the hon. Member for Peterborough (Mr. Jackson) on 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1049W, on domestic waste: waste disposal, (WR1204) "Household Waste Prevention: A Synthesis Review" aims to extract key information from published research into techniques for preventing waste in the home.

The project is being conducted by Brook Lyndhurst in association with the Social Marketing Practice and the Resource Recovery Forum.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information the Waste and Resources Action Programme holds on the local authorities which levy charges for the provision of bin bags for the collection of household waste. [262152]

Jane Kennedy: WRAP does not hold this information.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many local councils provide free collection of needles used in the management of diabetes from homes. [262281]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA does not hold the information requested.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme is taking to promote the participation by local authorities in the ACR+ European Campaign for Waste Reduction. [262619]

Jane Kennedy: The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) is a member of The Association of Cities and Regions for Recycling and sustainable Resource management (ACR+):

www.acrplus.org/-kg

but neither DEFRA nor WRAP is actively involved in promoting the participation of local authorities in the ACR+ European Campaign for Waste Reduction.

Energy Conservation

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received on the use of blinds and awnings as energy efficient products in domestic and commercial property; and whether officials of his Department have met representatives of the blind and awning industry. [256377]

Jane Kennedy: As far as it is possible to establish, neither DEFRA Ministers nor officials have met or received representations from any representatives of this industry.

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department has undertaken on the effect on energy efficiency of the use of blinds and awnings in domestic and commercial buildings. [256379]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA has undertaken no specific research on the effect on energy efficiency of the use of blinds and awnings in domestic and commercial buildings. Nonetheless, the benefits of blinds and awnings are understood and included in our National Calculation Methodologies, by which building related energy efficiency measures are assessed.

Fisheries: Scotland

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration his Department has given to the Scottish Fishermen's Federation's request for a joint legal opinion to be given by the Scottish and UK law officers on the Scottish Executive's proposals on fishing quotas and licences. [262129]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 9 March 2009]:* My Department is aware of the Scottish Fishermen's Federation's request. However, Government Departments do not disclose whether Law Officers' advice has been sought, nor the substance of any advice given.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he and officials in his Department have had with Scottish Executive Ministers and officials on the Scottish Executive's fishing quota proposals; whether a joint position with the Scottish Executive has been agreed; and if he will make a statement. [262130]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 9 March 2009]:* I have regular contact with all of my counterparts in the devolved Administrations, including Richard Lochhead, with whom I discuss a wide variety of issues, of which, his fishing quota proposals are just one. I know that my officials work along the same principles.

In trying to develop a joint position with the Scottish Executive, I continued my willingness to work with Richard Lochhead on quota management and licensing reform within the devolution settlement. This can and should be on a multilateral basis, and should serve the best interests of the UK fleet.

I have given Richard Lochhead my full support for developing quota management and licensing arrangements for Scotland which reflect the devolution settlement. Unfortunately, we have not been able to find a joint position with the Scottish Executive.

Fly Tipping: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many prosecutions have been brought for fly-tipping offences in West Chelmsford constituency in the last four years. [261773]

Jane Kennedy: The number of fly-tipping incidents and enforcement actions taken are not recorded at parliamentary ward level.

Food Supply

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he has taken to increase levels of self-sufficiency in British food production. [260899]

Jane Kennedy: Promoting a strong domestic farming sector is central to DEFRA's work, which is why one of its departmental strategic objectives is creating

"a thriving farming and food sector with an improving net environmental impact".

The UK is currently 74 per cent. self-sufficient in food that could be grown here, a higher proportion than in the 1950s. The UK domestic agricultural sector makes an important contribution to the richness and diversity of safe and nutritious food we enjoy, and it will need to continue to respond to changes in global markets for food.

UK self sufficiency tells us very little about UK food security. We need to maintain a range of supply sources for our food to spread the risk that might entail from over-reliance on one or a few supply sources, and to lower the impacts of any unforeseen disruptions involving any particular trading partner or from within our domestic food sector.

Fruit: Schools

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to implement EU proposals for free fruit provision in schools; and if he will make a statement. [261195]

Jane Kennedy: Agreement on the overarching principles of an EU scheme was reached by EU Agriculture Ministers at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council in December 2008. Proposals for the detailed implementing rules are currently under discussion in Brussels. In England, there is already the school fruit and vegetable scheme which is the responsibility of the Department of Health.

Genetically Modified Organisms

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what determination the EU has made in respect of the Mon-810 strain of genetically-modified maize; and whether any member state has agreed that the strain should be planted. [262433]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Monsanto MON 810 genetically modified maize secured EU approval for commercial cultivation in 1998, and it has been grown in the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Spain. Of these member states, France implemented a national ban on MON 810 in 2008, that is still being maintained. Monsanto has applied to renew the EU authorisation for MON 810 and this is being assessed by the European Food Safety Authority.

Horses

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1082W, on horses, what estimate he has made of the number of horses which have entered the human food chain in the UK in each of the last 10 years. [259661]

Jane Kennedy: The Meat Hygiene Services have only been recording figures on those horses bound for the food chain since 2005.

The numbers of horses that have entered the food chain are as follows:

2005-06: 3,782
2006-07: 4,939
2007-08: 3,664
2008-09 (to date): 3,398.

Insulation: Hazardous Substances

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance the Environment Agency issues to landfill operators on the acceptance at landfill sites of construction waste containing *(a)* plastic foam with ozone depleting substances and *(b)* other hazardous waste. [260965]

Jane Kennedy: All wastes going to landfill must comply with the acceptance criteria for the site, which is defined by the site's Environmental Permit. There is no specific guidance relating to waste building foams, but guidance on the interpretation of acceptance criteria for landfill operators receiving all types of waste is to be found in the Environment Agency's publication "Guidance for waste destined for disposal in landfills" Version 2, June 2006.

Members: Correspondence

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Northavon of 18 November 2008, regarding figures on carbon dioxide emissions in South Gloucestershire. [260112]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I have been asked to reply.

I replied to the hon. Member on 11 March.

National Flood Forum

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to ensure the continuation of the National Flood Forum. [262720]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The National Flood Forum (NFF) has an important role in providing an independent national voice for those at risk of flooding and we are keen to see it continue. Since its creation the NFF has received significant core funding from the Environment Agency, using DEFRA grant in aid. This has gradually been scaled back since 2004 to allow the NFF to become more independent. However, DEFRA has continued to fund the NFF to undertake specific projects and to support its general stakeholder role. The Environment Agency has also continued to fund NFF on a project by project basis.

Paper and Plastics: Waste Disposal

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the research report produced by the Waste and Resources Action Programme on the effects of transporting recovered paper and plastic bottles to China. [262621]

Jane Kennedy: The requested information is available on WRAP'S website:

http://www.wrap.org.uk/wrap_corporate/about_wrap/why_is_wraps_work_important/index.html

Recycling

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Waste and Resources Action Programme spent on promoting the sale of compost bins under the Recycle Now campaign, in each year of that campaign. [252882]

Jane Kennedy: The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) has sold almost 2 million home compost bins on behalf of local authorities since the programme started in 2004.

WRAP has also provided advice and support to those householders who have adopted home composting as an effective means of reducing the amount of waste they send to landfill or other treatments. This promotional activity helps householders to make the best use of their home composting bin once bought, through the ongoing provision of practical tips and advice.

WRAP's promotional expenditure under the Recycle Now home composting campaign has been as follows:

	£ million	*Per bin (£)*
2004	1.6	10.73
2005	2.5	7.31
2006	1.8	3.13
2007	1.6	3.02

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the income received by local authorities in England per tonne of recycled waste in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009; and what estimate he has made of the cost per tonne to local authorities of collecting recycled waste. [262963]

Jane Kennedy: Neither DEFRA nor the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) holds the information requested.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what volume of waste for recycling *(a)* was collected by local authorities in each region in 2008 and *(b)* is expected to be collected in 2009. [262964]

Jane Kennedy: The following table shows the amount of waste sent for recycling between July 2007 and June 2008. These are the most recent data to be published.

July 2007 to June 2008

Region	*Thousand tonnes*
East Midlands	987
Eastern	1,241
London	958
North East	446
North West	1,459
South East	1,694
South West	1,218
West Midlands	995
Yorkshire and the Humber	884

Notes:
1. Recycling data are published in terms of amounts sent for recycling, not amounts collected for recycling.
2. The amount sent is calculated by deducting from the collected figure the waste rejected for recycling and adding in recyclable waste that has been taken out of the residual stream and sent instead for recycling.
3. There are no estimations made for future recycling tonnages.

Source:
WasteDataFlow

Veal

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the size of the veal industry in England. [261455]

Jane Kennedy: The domestic UK market for veal is less than 1 per cent. of total beef and veal production. Total beef and veal production in 2007 was 888,000 tonnes.

Veterinary Services: Rural Areas

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to increase the provision of veterinary services in rural areas. [261636]

Jane Kennedy: There are no plans to increase the provision of veterinary services in rural areas of England. This is essentially a matter of commercial supply and demand.

Professor Philip Lowe has chaired a vets and veterinary services working group with representatives of the veterinary profession, farmers, academia and Government. The working group has been considering the changing public priorities in Great Britain, for farm animal health and welfare, food safety and public health and the ability of farm animal veterinarians to respond. Professor Lowe is due to publish a personal report on his findings in the near future and further information on his work is available on the DEFRA website.

Waste Disposal: Electronic Equipment

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the quantity of UK electronic waste exported to destinations beyond the EU which has been *(a)* re-used, *(b)* recycled and *(c)* otherwise disposed of in each of the last three years. [256967]

Jane Kennedy: 'Approved exporters' of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) report exports of WEEE to EU and non-EU countries. Separate data returns for exports to non-EU countries are not available. The Environment Agency's provisional estimate for 2008 is that 4,643 tonnes of WEEE from UK households was exported by approved exporters to EU and non-EU countries for reuse and recycling. It is illegal to export waste for disposal.

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the oral evidence taken by the Communities and Local Government Committee on 17 December 2007, HC (2007-08) 195, Q24, which local authorities had expressed an interest in participating in the pilot financial incentive schemes. [262278]

Jane Kennedy: We have committed to release the names of any local authorities which come forward with formal expressions of interest in piloting a waste reduction scheme; none have yet done so. My hon. Friend the Member for Lewisham, Deptford, referred in the oral evidence session of 17 December 2007 to authorities which had made initial inquiries only.

Waste Management: Conferences

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the presentation and handouts produced by his Department's Head of Waste Programme on the Implementation of Waste Strategy for England for the Waste Management Finance Forum on 22 January 2009. [262622]

Jane Kennedy: A copy of the presentation by the Head of Waste Programme given at the Waste Management Finance Forum in January 2009 will be placed in the Library of the House.

Wood: Licensing

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to reintroduce log licences; and if he will make a statement. [262291]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Decisions on allowing the collection of firewood by licence or permit on the public forest estate in England managed by the Forestry Commission are for the Forestry Commission and are delegated to local forest management directors.

When deciding whether to allow firewood collection, the Forestry Commission takes into account conflicts with other objectives including the importance of dead and decaying timber as part of the woodland ecosystem and the duty of care to all woodland users.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departmental Art Works

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which works of art from the Government Art Collection each Minister in his Department has selected for display in a private office. [259448]

Jonathan Shaw: I can confirm that the following works of Art from the Government Art collection are displayed in the Ministers offices.

Minister's Office	*Title*	*Artist*
James Purnell	Howling like dogs, I swallowed solid air	Zarina Bhimji
James Purnell	1930s to 1960s	Sonia Boyce
James Purnell	Stranger	Glenn Ligon
James Purnell	The Prize	Hew Locke
James Purnell	After the Dance	Chris Ofili
James Purnell	When and Where I Enter, the British Museum	Carrie Mae Weems
Tony McNulty	Cup and Pan Blues	William Scott
Tony McNulty	Fortune raises and casts down	Roberts Medley
Tony McNulty	Misery and Remorse	Robert Medley
Tony McNulty	The Break Up	Robert Medley
Rosie Winterton	Untitled	Dan Holdsworth
Rosie Winterton	Leydanjar	Phillip Allen
Rosie Winterton	Untitled	Dan Holdsworth

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much expenditure was incurred in respect of overseas visits which *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers in his Department and *(c)* his Department's senior officials undertook in 2008. [262168]

Jonathan Shaw: Since 1999, the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the financial year 2007-08 was published on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 102WS and for the first time, included details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All travel by Ministers is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

The information regarding senior officials could be provided only at disproportionate costs. All travel is undertaken in guidance with the Civil Service Management Code with the requirement to make efficient and cost effective travel arrangements.

Employment And Support Allowance

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what costs relating to the introduction of the employment and support allowance were incurred by the Ministry of Justice with reference to the budget transfer of £1.45 million from the Department for Work and Pensions as announced in the written ministerial statement of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 116-9WS, on department expenditure limits. [261083]

Mr. McNulty: The Department of Work and Pensions is not able to provide information on costs incurred by the Ministry of Justice.

The Department of Work and Pensions transferred £1,455,000 to the Ministry of Justice as part of the Spring Supplementary Estimate 2008-09 (HC221). The funding was provided to support operating costs incurred by the Ministry of Justice resulting from the introduction of Employment Support Allowance (ESA).

National Insurance Fund

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the contribution of the Minister of State of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1567, when he plans to write to the hon. Member for South-West Bedfordshire on the National Insurance Fund; and if he will place a copy of the letter in the Library. [259626]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 27 February 2009]:* The letter was sent to the hon. Member, and arrangements made to place a copy in the Library, on 9 March 2009.

Pensioners: Personal Savings

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what research his Department has undertaken into the amount of interest pensioners *(a)* are able to earn and *(b)* are earning on their savings; [257376]

(2) what research his Department has undertaken on the effects of the economic downturn, on pensioners' income from savings. [257380]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department's main source of information on the incomes received by pensioners is the Pensioners' Incomes Series, based on Family Resources Survey data. This includes analyses of income from savings and its contribution to total income. Latest information relates to 2006-07.

The Government remain committed to supporting pensioners during these difficult times. The key changes the Government have recently made to support pensioners are as follows:

The Government are providing support through increasing the basic state pension, against a backdrop of falling inflation, in line with the highest level of inflation last year. It will increase by 5 per cent. or £4.55 a week, to £95.25 per week from this April.

In 2008-09, the Government provided extra help to pensioners through additional payments of £50 for households with someone aged 60-79 years and £100 for those with someone aged 80 or over made alongside the winter fuel payment.

The Government also provided extra help to pensioners through a one-off boost of £60 to the Christmas bonus.

Furthermore, the Government have increased cold weather payments from £8.50 to £25 for each week of cold weather in winter 2008-09.

Pensions

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have taken out a stakeholder pension. [261256]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not available in the form requested. Such information as is available, is as follows.

Figures published by the Association of British Insurers for the quarter ending December 2008 show the total number of stakeholder pension policies sold since their inception in 2001 as being 4.9 million. This figure includes people buying a new stakeholder pension, plus those transferring funds from another pension arrangement. The Association of British Insurers cannot provide a breakdown of this figure.

Sunbeds: Safety

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has held discussions with European Union counterparts on sun tanning equipment safety issues in the last two years; and if he will make a statement. [246159]

Jonathan Shaw: There have been no such discussions.

Workstep

Derek Conway: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the length of the 24-month supported-employment period for people with some types of disabilities within the Workstep programme; [261781]

(2) what recent representations he has received in favour of the extension of the Workstep programme beyond 24 months for people with certain categories of disability. [261786]

Jonathan Shaw: Currently there is no 24-month supported employment period for any disabilities within the Workstep programme. The length of support for each individual is tailored to their particular needs. Therefore no consideration has been given to extending this period.

Derek Conway: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many representations he has received on the effectiveness of the Workstep programme. [261785]

Jonathan Shaw: Between 2005 and 2006, we conducted two pieces of research. The first, in July 2005 considered user and provider views, and involved 57 customers of Workstep and 49 provider staff from 31 provider organisations. The second, in March 2006 was a case study of 17 Workstep provider organisations exploring the design, delivery and performance of the Workstep programme.

In addition, from December 2007 to March 2008 we ran an extensive consultation exercise on proposals to introduce a new programme to replace Workstep and other programmes. This attracted over 450 responses. One of the questions covered in the consultation exercise related to replacing Workstep with a single new specialist disability employment programme. Several public reports have also been published over the last few years identifying the need for improvements to existing disability employment provision.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to answer Question 249132, on answers to parliamentary Questions, tabled on 14 January 2009. [261475]

Jonathan Shaw: I replied to the hon. Member's question on 4 March 2009. *Official Report*, column 1613W.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: Food Aid

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department has allocated to support for *(a)* food aid programmes in developing countries in Africa in each of the last 10 years and *(b)* the development of agriculture in such countries in each such year. [261821]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Spending on *(a)* food aid programmes and *(b)* for agricultural development in sub-Saharan Africa for the years 1998-99 to 2007-08 is set out in the two following tables:

(a) Food aid to sub-Saharan Africa

£000

Country	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Burkina Faso	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	105	—
Burundi	—	—	—	—	—	75	123	—	700	650
Central African Republic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	300	—
Chad	—	—	—	—	—	1,000	—	—	—	720
Congo (DRC)	—	—	—	—	—	—	30	30	101	89
Eritrea	—	—	—	—	2,000	1,110	440	159	393	406
Ethiopia	2,953	865	8,178	2,703	22,543	10,954	2,285	1,004	—	—
Kenya	—	—	2,000	2,250	6	55	3,303	8,727	5,563	2,243
Liberia	—	—	—	—	—	800	200	—	250	—
Malawi	6	—	—	—	—	577	8	471	625	129
Mali	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	550	—	—
Mauritania	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	250	—
Niger	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,748	621	1,191
Rwanda	215	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Somalia	—	—	27	142	500	153	443	6,565	97	4,902
Sudan	49	—	—	1,646	2,500	6,407	8,545	13,493	1,174	53
Tanzania	849	232	73	4	10	—	174	—	700	—
Uganda	—	—	—	—	1,850	5,158	9,001	10,700	7,000	—
Zambia	—	—	—	—	3,350	99	149	—	—	800
Zimbabwe	—	—	—	5,000	9,410	6,179	1,827	11,187	172	—
Regional budgets	—	—	—	—	26,180	42	39	1	—	-265
Total	4,072	1,097	10,278	11,746	71,239	32,607	26,567	55,634	18,050	10,918

(b) Support to development of agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa

£000

Country	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Regional budgets	497	812	1,797	3,068	3,215	2,731	3,801	1,373	2,570	5,681
Angola	235	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Botswana	1,242	1,521	1,206	770	441	181	122	—	35	—
Burkina Faso	—	44	66	24	26	33	20	—	—	—
Cameroon	13	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cote d'Ivoire	19	28	4	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ethiopia	931	238	189	216	740	333	612	431	1	93
Gambia	40	214	161	247	83	58	—	-18	—	—
Ghana	426	378	356	461	843	357	1,399	150	643	2,915

(b) Support to development of agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa

£000

Country	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Kenya	1,808	2,641	1,908	1,227	1,300	1,201	1,078	1,046	1,422	441
Lesotho	477	374	507	254	298	104	180	303	277	137
Liberia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	280	—
Madagascar	—	—	—	—	—	10	33	22	18	16
Malawi	5,198	4,692	10,950	7,456	1,536	2,130	2,521	252	2,025	2,110
Mali	73	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mozambique	1,279	1,956	5,521	6,922	2,332	770	126	54	193	200
Namibia	381	275	343	234	548	613	470	596	289	—
Nigeria	1,162	1,902	1,814	2,083	2,192	252	750	1,296	1,493	1,129
Rwanda	73	34	59	32	59	81	396	282	1,995	989
Sierra Leone	173	811	357	118	167	143	—	—	9	8
Somalia	261	92	91	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Africa	3,098	3,291	2,414	2,206	1,850	1,622	705	598	400	247
Swaziland	470	366	89	103	101	198	126		89	1
Tanzania	1,059	1,279	2,224	2,558	501	209	49	4	80	164
Uganda	665	1,573	7,628	6,312	1,438	1,342	1,192	183	1	1
Zambia	237	100	5	—	—	—	142	43	55	59
Zimbabwe	862	1,706	1,202	1,047	313	75	3	—	—	25
Total	20,939	24,543	39,094	35,361	18,039	12,522	13,810	6,635	11,875	14,217

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1578W, on departmental recruitment, how many of the general faststreamers recruited in each year since 2003 were undertaking first degree courses at university when they successfully applied to his Department. [263273]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) recruited 32 general faststreamers between 2003 and 2008. One of them, recruited in 2004, was undertaking a first degree course at university when they successfully applied to the Department. This total excludes faststreamers recruited through the in-service scheme and those recruited from other Government Departments, none of whom were at university when they joined the Department.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1743W, on departmental surveys, if he will place in the Library a copy of the raw data and reports relating to the results of each of the three staff surveys carried out between January 2007 and March 2009. [263222]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development's (DFID) 2007 Management Survey and 2008 Better Balance Audit results will be placed in the Library.

The 2009 Pulse Survey results were received at the end of February and are currently being communicated internally through the line management chain. The report will be published on DFID's intranet by 31 March 2009 and placed in the Library at this time.

To preserve anonymity of survey responses, we will not be making the raw data publicly available.

Developing Countries: Debts

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the Government's position is on the cancellation of debt arising from irresponsible lending to debtor countries; and if he will make a statement. [261820]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK Government do not comment on other countries' lending practices.

Loans made by the UK Government are made to internationally recognised governments; they are bound by legal contracts and are recognised in international law. The UK provides debt relief on the basis of a country's economic situation and track record on poverty reduction, rather than on any other basis. The Government have led efforts to agree international initiatives to provide comprehensive solutions to poor countries' debts, and we encourage all creditors to provide their share of debt relief.

Exchange Rates

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which of his Department's offices in each country overseas has reported a decline in the purchasing power of their local budget as a result of recent exchange rate movements; and what the size of the reported decline was in each case. [261882]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Exchange rate movements during 2008-09 have cost overseas offices some £2 million in administration costs. Full analysis of the implications of exchange rate changes for individual DFID offices is still being developed.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken to mitigate the effects of adverse exchange rate movements on its budget. [261884]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development makes most of its payment commitments in sterling, although contributions to European Union aid programmes are denominated in euros, and DFID country offices make some payments in local currency. During 2008-09, all foreign currency requirements were met through making separate 'spot' deals for individual payments using the best market rate available. Budgets have been reprioritised within the year to meet increased costs of foreign exchange requirements.

International Assistance: Costs

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cost to his Department of its subscription to each international organisation was in 2007-08. [261881]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Details on the Department's subscriptions to international organisations are available in our 2008 annual report which is available in the Library of the House and on the DFID website at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Overseas Aid: Diabetes

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has provided for *(a)* research and *(b)* practical assistance relating to diabetes in developing countries in each of the last three years; and what such funding is planned for the next three years. [261827]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not provided any research support for work on diabetes in last three years. DFID's research strategy acknowledges the growing impact of non-communicable diseases, like diabetes, in developing countries. We are currently considering how we will fund non-communicable disease research in the future, but have not yet made any decisions.

Although we recognise the increasing importance of non-communicable diseases, the core of our work is to help strengthen health systems to deal with all basic health needs, bearing in mind that communicable diseases and issues such as maternal mortality take a huge toll on the health of people in poor countries. We have therefore committed £6 billion for this over the period 2008-15 and a further £1 billion to the Global Fund to fight TB, AIDS and malaria to 2015.

Sri Lanka: Internally Displaced Persons

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 29 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 737W, on Sri Lanka: internally displaced persons, when he expects the findings of the report of the humanitarian assessment mission to Sri Lanka to be placed in the Library. [262065]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development's (DFID) humanitarian assessment mission in Sri Lanka is on-going due to the prolonged nature of the conflict and continued displacement of civilians in the North. One DFID humanitarian specialist will stay, based in Colombo, for another month at least.

St. Helena: Airports

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the most recent schedule for the construction of an airport on St. Helena is; and if he will make a statement. [261816]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We announced on 8 December 2008, *Official Report*, columns 46-47WS, that there will be a pause in negotiations over the St. Helena airport contract. We are reviewing whether it is right to proceed with this project in the present difficult economic climate. We will announce the outcome of our considerations as soon as we are able to.

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which trade unions are recognised in his Department. [262086]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: DFID recognises two trade unions as representatives of our UK based staff, the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS) and the Association of First Division Civil Servants (FDA).

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital admissions there have been for alcohol-related mental and behavioural disorders for *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged (i) under 10 years, (ii) 10 to 13 years, (iii) 14 to 17 years and (iv) 18 years and over in (A) each region and (B) each constituency in each of the last five years.; and if he will make a statement. [262261]

Dawn Primarolo: Tables which have been placed in the Library, give figures for the number of finished admissions with a primary or secondary diagnosis of mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol, by region of residence and primary care trust (PCT) of residence, for the years 2003-04 to 2007-08. 2007-08 is the latest year for which information is available. Information is not available by constituency and so figures for PCTs have been provided instead.

The under-18 age bands in the PCT table have been combined to avoid having to suppress large number of figures to protect patient confidentiality. Some PCTs were reconfigured between 2005-06 and 2006-07. Where this was the case, the figures for 2006-07 and 2007-08 are not comparable with figures for earlier years.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital admissions there have been for alcohol-related fall injuries for *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged (i) under 10, (ii) 10 to 13, (iii) 14 to 17 and (iv) 18 years and over in (A) each region and (B) each constituency in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [262492]

Dawn Primarolo: Tables, which have been placed in the Library, give figures for the number of alcohol-related finished admissions with a primary or secondary diagnosis of fall injuries, by region of residence and primary care trust (PCT) of residence, for the years 2003-04 to 2007-08. 2007-08 is the latest year for which information is available. Information is not available by constituency and so figures for PCTs have been provided instead.

The under-18 age bands in the PCT table have been combined to avoid having to suppress large number of figures to protect patient confidentiality. Some PCTs were reconfigured between 2005-06 and 2006-07. Where this was the case, the figures for 2006-07 and 2007-08 are not comparable with figures for earlier years.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital admissions there have been for alcohol-related road traffic accidents for *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged (i) under 10, (ii) 10 to 13, (iii) 14 to 17 and (iv) 18 years and over in (A) each region and (B) each constituency in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [262493]

Dawn Primarolo: Tables, which have been placed in the Library, give figures for the number of alcohol-related finished admissions with a primary or secondary diagnosis of road traffic accidents, by region of residence and primary care trust (PCT) of residence, for the years 2003-04 to 2007-08. 2007-08 is the latest year for which information is available. Information is not available by constituency and so figures for PCTs have been provided instead.

The under-18 age bands in the PCT table have been combined to avoid having to suppress large number of figures to protect patient confidentiality. Some PCTs were reconfigured between 2005-06 and 2006-07. Where this was the case, the figures for 2006-07 and 2007-08 are not comparable with figures for earlier years.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital admissions there have been for ethanol poisoning for *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged (i) under 10, (ii) 10 to 13, (iii) 14 to 17 and (iv) 18 years and over in each (A) region and (B) constituency in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [262494]

Dawn Primarolo: Tables, which have been placed in the Library, give figures for the number of finished admissions with a primary or secondary diagnosis of ethanol poisoning, by region of residence and primary care trust (PCT) of residence, for the years 2003-04 to 2007-08. 2007-08 is the latest year for which information is available. Information is not available by constituency and so figures for PCTs have been provided instead.

The under-18 age bands in the PCT table have been combined to avoid having to suppress large number of figures to protect patient confidentiality. Some PCTs were reconfigured between 2005-06 and 2006-07. Where this was the case, the figures for 2006-07 and 2007-08 are not comparable with figures for earlier years.

Allergies

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will require food manufacturers to label their foods more precisely in order to avoid serious allergic reactions; what legislation currently regulates this issue; and if he will make a statement. [263277]

Dawn Primarolo: Food allergens are already required to be clearly declared on the labels of pre-packed foods.

Directive 2000/13/EC (as amended) established a list of 14 food ingredients which must be indicated on the label of foodstuffs as they are likely to cause adverse reactions in sensitive individuals. The allergens that have to be declared are those of greatest public health concern in the European Union, However, the legislation would allow for other foods to be added to the list should the need arise.

Cardiovascular System: Diseases

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans his Department has to include the diagnosis and management of peripheral arterial disease in the Quality and Outcomes Framework for general practitioners; [262304]

(2) what *(a)* priority and *(b)* focus his Department gives to peripheral arterial disease; [262305]

(3) what plans he has to improve the quality of care for patients with intermittent claudication; [262308]

(4) if his Department's vascular checks initiative will include diagnosis for peripheral arterial disease. [262711]

Ann Keen: The Department has engaged in discussions with Target PAD about ways to support adoption of best practice in identifying and treating patients with peripheral arterial disease (PAD) as part of a national overall strategy for vascular diseases.

The Department is currently developing the programme of vascular assessment originally announced by the Prime Minister in January 2008, and outlined in 'Putting Prevention First', which is due to be rolled out from April 2009. The programme is aimed at assessing and modifying risk factors for vascular disease. These are common to the whole range of vascular diseases, including PAD. Intermittent claudication is commonly a symptom of PAD. A copy of 'Putting Prevention First' has already been placed in the Library.

We would expect that the combination of vascular risk assessments and existing Quality and Outcome Framework (QOF) registers for vascular diseases should identify the majority of people with PAD or at significant risk of developing it. There are no specific QOF indicators for PAD.

In addition, the Department is working with Target PAD to develop a national specification for primary care trusts (PCTs) to commission local enhanced services in relation to PAD or for its treatment.

The Department has asked the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to oversee a new independent and transparent process for prioritising, developing and reviewing QOF clinical and health improvement indicators for England from 1 April 2009 as part of their role in providing guidance for the national health service based on evidence of clinical effectiveness and cost-effectiveness. We launched a public consultation on the proposed new process on 30 October 2008. The consultation ended on 2 February. Subject to the outcome of that consultation, any proposal for changes to QOF indicators would need to be considered under that new process.

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many patients presented with intermittent claudication in each year since 1997; [262307]

(2) how many patients have presented with peripheral arterial disease in each year since 1997. [262331]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Dementia

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) on what date his Department's reviews of the inappropriate use of anti-psychotic drugs for people with dementia will be published; [262282]

(2) how many dementia advisers the NHS employs; how many he intends to recruit in each of the next three years; and by what dates such advisers will be in place. [262309]

Phil Hope: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to him on 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 640W.

Departmental Bank Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with which banks his Department has or has had contracts for the provision of financial advice, for the financial year 2008-09. [262758]

Mr. Bradshaw: No contracts were held by the Department with banks for the provision of financial advice for financial year 2008-09.

Departmental Correspondence

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many letters to his Department had not been replied to within 28 days of receipt at the latest date for which information is available. [261415]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department routinely measures its performance in replying to correspondence against a target of 20 working days. Of the 52,232 letters received by the Department between 1 January and 31 December 2008 and logged onto our central correspondence database, 2,074 were not replied to within 20 working days. The Department answered 96 per cent. of letters within 20 working days.

	Number/percentage
Number of letters	52,232
Replied to within 20 working days	50,158
Not replied to within 20 working days	2,074
Percentage replied to within 20 working days	96

Diabetes

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what access NHS patients with diabetes-related foot ulcers have to dedicated multi-disciplinary team care in each strategic health authority area. [262306]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally. It is important that people with diabetes have access to a multidisciplinary team that includes podiatry services. The National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE)'s guidelines on the prevention and management of foot problems in people with diabetes advise that foot examinations should be carried out by trained personnel as part of the annual review process.

It is for local national health service organisations to commission a comprehensive service for people with diabetes that includes podiatry services.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the percentage change in diagnosis rates of Type 2 diabetes has been since 1997. [262413]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect data on the rates of diagnosis for type 2 diabetes. Information on the number of people with diabetes is available from the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF).

Figures for the last 10 years are not available. However, the following table shows the number of people recorded on diabetes registers (including both type 1 and type 2 diabetes) from 2004-05 to 2007-08, from the QOF. It should be noted that patients will only contribute to the figures in QOF if they are registered with a general practice participating in the QOF. QOF data are collected annually and only include people with diabetes aged 17 or over. Figures are not available broken down into type 1 and type 2 diabetes. The latest prevalence data are from June 2008.

	Number of patients with a recorded diagnosis of diabetes
2004-05	1,766,391
2005-06	1,890,663
2006-07	1,961,976
2007-08	2,088,335

Diabetes: Expenditure

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of the NHS budget has been spent on diabetes-related illnesses in each of the last five years. [262412]

Ann Keen: Estimates of national health service expenditure on diabetes are available from the programme budgeting returns.

The following table shows the estimated gross level expenditure for diabetes from 2004-05 to 2006-07 in England. These figures include primary care trust, Department of Health, strategic health authority and special health authority expenditure. It should be noted that these figures do not include prevention expenditure or General Medical Services/Primary Medical Services expenditure. Data for 2007-08 are not yet available.

	Diabetes expenditure (£000)	*Department of Health gross expenditure (£000)*	*Diabetes as a proportion of gross expenditure (percentage)*
2004-05	687,402	71,922,179	1.0
2005-06	866,000	80,185,241	1.1
2006-07	1,043,021	84,193,209	1.2

Diabetes: Pupils

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many primary care trusts provide training on diabetes to school staff. [262414]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

Diabetes: Syringes

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many health care centres in *(a)* Leicester City Primary Care Trust and *(b)* England accept needles which have been used in the management of diabetes; [262410]

(2) what assessment he has made of the current level of provision for the disposal of needles used by diabetics; and if he will make a statement. [262411]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect data about the number of health care centres that accept used diabetic needles and, therefore, has not made an assessment about the current provision for the disposal of diabetic needles.

Diabetic Care—Sharps Disposal Information Note (August 2004) provides the following guidance to health care professionals and those involved in health care waste management and disposal with regard to the correct and safe disposal of used diabetic needles:

"Those prescribed the Sharpsbin should be advised that, because of the risk of needle-stick injuries, it should not be disposed of via the normal household refuse collection. Patients should correctly dispose of their Sharpsbin by returning it to their GP for appropriate disposal (if so licensed). Alternatively, local authorities will make separate collections of clinical waste on request and patients should contact their local authority."

A copy of the information note has been placed in the Library.

Drugs: Young People

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many 18 to 21-year-olds were admitted to each *(a)* hospital and *(b)* university hospital following drug-related incidents in each of the last 10 years. [260919]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested has been placed in the Library. It is important to note that the diagnosis codes used to record hospital admission episodes do not distinguish between recreational, illicit misuse or medical use of drugs.

Food: Labelling

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department *(a)* has taken in the last 12 months and *(b)* plans to take in the next 12 months to improve the labelling of food; what recent representations he has received on this issue; and if he will make a statement; [263291]

(2) which organisations and individuals the Food Standards Agency *(a)* consulted in each of the last six months and *(b)* plans to consult in the next six months on food labelling; and if he will make a statement. [263292]

Dawn Primarolo: Food labelling is the responsibility of the Food Standards Agency, which reports to Parliament through Health Ministers.

The European Commission has published a proposal for new legislation which is currently under negotiation in Brussels. This will update and consolidate general and nutrition labelling and is expected to be adopted in 2013. The Agency consulted on the proposal in February 2008 soon after its publication in February 2008, and will be consulting further in the coming months on specific aspects as they are discussed by member states.

The Agency actively and regularly engages with a wide range of stakeholders and on a range of food labelling issues as required in the development of United Kingdom policy. This includes the formal and informal consultation of over 1,100 individuals on the Agency's interested parties list, consumer groups, manufacturers, retailers, enforcement and other Government Departments.

Health Visitors

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many health visitors there were in each primary care trust in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007. [263153]

Ann Keen: The number of health visitors in each primary care trust in the years in question is given in a table, which has been placed in the Library.

HIV Infection

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what programmes his Department is funding to ensure that people with HIV have the social support they need, with particular reference to access to peer support groups. [263052]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department funds the AIDS support grant to help local authorities to provide social support to people with HIV. This grant has been increased and totals £21.8 million in 2009-10. The Department also funds several voluntary organisations whose work includes peer support for people with HIV in England. These organisations include the Terrence Higgins Trust, the African HIV Policy Network, Positively Women and the National Children's Bureau.

Hospitals: Food

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which retailers have *(a)* adopted and *(b)* not adopted the Food Standards Agency's recommended traffic light colour-coded system of nutrition labelling; and if he will make a statement. [263241]

Dawn Primarolo: There are currently eight retailers that have adopted the Food Standards Agency's traffic light signposting system these are: Asda, Booths, Boots, Budgens/Londis, The Cooperative, Marks and Spencer, Sainsbury's and Waitrose.

The Food Standards Agency is aware of the following retailers which have opted to use a different front of pack labelling system: Aldi, Lidl, Morrisons, Netto, Nisa-Today, Somerfield, Spar and Tesco.

Human Papilloma Virus: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many girls aged 12 and 13 have been vaccinated against the human papilloma virus in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire. [263065]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department collects data on the human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccination programme.

Provisional data at the end of January 2009 for HPV vaccine uptake in the area covered by West Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) which includes Hemel Hempstead show that:

a total of 3,141 12 to 13-year-old girls have received the first dose; this represents 81.3 per cent. of the total number of girls in this age group in schools in West Hertfordshire PCT; and

a total of 3,079 12 to 13-year-old girls have received the first and second doses; this represents 79.7 per cent. of the total number of girls in this age group in schools in West Hertfordshire PCT.

Provisional data at the end of January 2009 for HPV vaccine uptake in the area covered by West Hertfordshire PCT and East and North Hertfordshire PCT show that:

a total of 6,103 12 to 13-year-old girls have received the first dose, this represents 82.2 per cent. of the total number of girls in this age group in schools in Hertfordshire; and

a total of 5,963 12 to 13-year-old girls have received the first and second doses, this represents 80.3 per cent. of the total number of girls in this age group in schools in Hertfordshire.

The HPV vaccination is a three-dose schedule and the current cohorts of 12 to 13-year-old girls will be offered their third dose later this year.

HPV vaccine uptake information is published on the website:

www.immunisation.nhs.uk

The provisional data for all PCTs in England at the end of January 2009 have been placed in the Library.

Injuries: Children

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for East Worthing and Shoreham of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 404W, on injuries: children, when the equivalent figures for the year 2007-08 will be available. [262520]

Ann Keen: The information requested was published in the Hospital Episode Statistics in-patient publication on 25 February 2009. The data for finished admission episodes for deliberate and unintended injuries (age 0-15 inclusive) for 2007-08 are in the following table:

2007-08

	Number
Unintended	121,713
Deliberate (intentional self-harm)	7,802
Deliberate (assault)	2,977
Other	572

Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation: Standards

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will put in place measures to ensure that members of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation have no direct or indirect financial ties to pharmaceutical companies who provide vaccines. [262165]

Dawn Primarolo: Members of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) are required to observe the 'Seven Principles of Public Life' set out by the Committee on Standards in Public Life and must comply with the JCVI code of practice. Members are required by the code to declare relevant interests, including personal and non-personal interests, in any particular matter to be considered by the JCVI. The register of members' interests is updated regularly. Individual declarations of interest made in 2009 will be published in May 2009 on the website at:

www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/jcvi/

A copy of the JCVI code of practice has been placed in the Library.

Mental Health Services: Sexual Offences

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many incidents of *(a)* sexual assault and *(b)* rape on mental health patients in mental health hospitals were recorded in each of the last five years. [263022]

Phil Hope: This information is not collected centrally.

NHS: Negligence

Mr. Lamley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 938W, on NHS negligence, how much of the £713.4 million to be collected in 2009-10 will be collected by each NHS trust; and how much relates to each type of claim. [262706]

Ann Keen: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 661W.

Nutrition

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1034W, on nutrition, what data on malnutrition is routinely reported to *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* senior officials in his Department; if he will implement an annual audit of the quality of nutritional care; and if he will make a statement. [262544]

Dawn Primarolo: Data on malnutrition is not routinely reported to Ministers or senior officials but is published annually. This information can be found on the Hospital Episodes Statistics website at:

http://www.hesonline.nhs.uk/Ease/servlet/ContentServer?siteID=1937&categoryID=920

which provides recently published 2007-08 data on malnutrition, and will be updated further in December with 2008-09 data.

The website includes malnutrition codes and an information paper on malnutrition and how it is collected.

There are no plans to undertake an audit of data collected in relation to malnutrition. Data on malnutrition collected through Hospital Episodes Statistics goes through a rigorous and comprehensive validation.

Nutrition: Children

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what restrictions are in place on the advertising on television of less healthy foods aimed at children; and if he will make a statement. [263285]

Dawn Primarolo: The television regulator Ofcom has placed scheduling restrictions on the broadcast advertising of foods high in fat, salt and sugar (HFSS) during children's programmes and programmes of particular appeal to children up to the age of 16. Since January 2009 these restrictions apply to all channels.

In addition, food and drink manufacturers cannot use promotional offers, celebrities, licensed characters popular with children, or health or nutrition claims in HFSS food and drink adverts targeted directly at primary school children.

Nutrition: Screening

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 25 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 878W, on nutrition: screening, if he will discuss with health care professionals the inclusion of nutritional screening as a directed enhanced service in the community pharmacy contract. [261818]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has no intention of undertaking such discussions. Nutritional screening is not a directed enhanced service in the community pharmacy contract.

The provision of healthy lifestyle advice, including advice on diet and nutrition is already an essential service to be provided by all community pharmacies. Nutritional screening was not a service identified in the pharmacy White Paper as a potential directed enhanced service. It is for primary care trusts to commission services according to local needs. The Department will keep the community pharmacy contractual framework under review.

Orthopaedics

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's policy is on measures to reduce the number of amputations resulting from diabetes and arterial disease. [262714]

Ann Keen: Reducing the number of amputations resulting from diabetes and arterial disease relies on good management of and services for patients with these conditions. The Diabetes and Coronary Heart Disease (CHD) national service frameworks set out overall strategies and these have been supplemented by relevant National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance. A national programme of vascular health checks is currently under development. This will address risk factors for CHD, stroke, diabetes and chronic kidney disease. Although arterial disease is not identified in the proposed vascular checks programme, the risk factors for arterial disease are the same as for other vascular diseases.

Orthopaedics: Rehabilitation

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* rehabilitation and *(b)* aftercare of patients who have had an amputation as a result of diabetes cost in the last financial year for which figures are available. [262303]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally. Responsibility for the provision and delivery of rehabilitation and aftercare services for people with diabetes rests with the national health service, and it is for primary care trusts to commission services that the meet the needs of their local population.

Southampton Independent Sector Treatment Centre

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the contracted workload of the Southampton Independent Sector Treatment Centre has been in each month since it was established. [261413]

Mr. Bradshaw: The total contracted workload for each month at the Southampton Independent Sector Treatment Centre is shown in the following table. This includes all types of treatment undertaken at the centre.

Total contracted workload for Southampton Independent Sector Treatment Centre

	Number
2008	
November	1,640
December	2,295
2009	
January	2,951
February	3,279

Source:
Monthly ISTC activity returns.

Steroid Drugs

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 25 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 888-90W, on steroid drugs, what the figures for *(a)* glucocorticoids and synthetic analogues, *(b)* other estrogens and progestogens, *(c)* androgens and anabolic congeners and *(d)* mineralcorticoids and their antagonists are. [261936]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Transplant Surgery: Foreigners

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 254-60W, from which countries each of the people came for whom no follow-up information is available. [263238]

Ann Keen: The following table shows organ and ocular tissue transplants carried out in the United Kingdom, where the recipient is recorded as being resident outside the UK (excluding the Republic of Ireland), by country of recipient residence, where no three-month follow-up information is available, April 1998 - March 2008. All figures refer to organs and tissue from deceased donors except where otherwise stated.

Country of residence	*Kidney*	*Liver*	*Cornea*	*Tedivo*	*Total*
Netherlands	—	—	1	—	1
France	—	—	2	—	2
Sweden	—	—	1	—	1
Malta	—	2	4	—	6
Portugal	—	—	2	—	2
Spain	—	—	1	—	1
Greece	[1]	1	10	1	13
Turkey	—	—	1	—	1
Switzerland	—	—	1	—	1
Italy	—	3	3	3	9
Bulgaria	[1]	—	—	—	1
Cyprus	—	4	2	—	6
Gibraltar	—	—	2	—	2
Croatia	—	4	—	—	4
Bosnia-Herzegovina	[1]	—	—	—	1
St Helena	—	—	1	—	1
Bermuda	[1]	—	—	—	1
St Vincent and the Grenadines	[1]	—	—	—	1
Bahrain	[1]	—	1	—	2
Saudi Arabia	—	3	—	2	5
United Arab Emirates	—	7	2	2	11
Kuwait	[1]	[3]	3	—	9
Oman	[1]	—	—	—	1
Qatar	[1]	—	—	1	2
Egypt	—	33	2	—	35
Libya	[1]	—	1	—	2
Sudan	—	—	1	—	1
Nigeria	[1]	—	2	—	3
Uganda	—	—	1	—	1
Cameroon	—	—	1	—	1
Ghana	[1]	—	—	—	1
Kenya	[1]	—	2	—	3
Zambia	—	1	—	—	1
Zimbabwe	—	—	2	—	2
South Africa	—	4	—	—	4
Mauritius	—	—	1	—	1
Iran	[1]	—	—	—	1
Pakistan	[1]	1	1	—	3
India	[1]	3	1	—	5
Bangladesh	—	—	1	—	1
Brazil	—	2	—	—	2
Unspecified non-EU	—	1	—	—	1
Total	16	74	53	9	152

[1] From living donors
[2] One from a living donor

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Leader of the House how many staff in her Office *(a)* were disciplined and *(b)* had their employment terminated as a result of a poor sickness record in each of the last 12 months. [262237]

Chris Bryant: None.

Legislation

Mr. Baron: To ask the Leader of the House with reference to the answer of 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 731W, on legislation, how many pages of *(a)* primary and *(b)* delegated legislation were passed by the House in (i) 2007 and (ii) 2008. [263231]

Chris Bryant: The number of printed A4 pages for all Public Acts, taken from the PDF versions on the OPSI website, were as follows:

	Number
2007	3,022
2008	3,190

Figures for earlier years given in my previous answer were based on the bound volumes of legislation published by The Stationery Office. These volumes have not yet been published for the years in question and there may be a difference between the figures given and the bound volume figures.

Because of the volume of delegated legislation and because the bound volumes have not yet been published by TSO, page numbers could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Broadband

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment he has made of progress towards meeting his Department's target for broadband to be installed in every home by 2010; and if he will make a statement. [261005]

Ian Pearson: Currently, over 99 per cent. of UK households are connected to a broadband enabled exchange and satellite broadband is geographically available to 100 per cent. of the UK.

The Interim Digital Britain Report, which was published in January, outlined the Government's intention for a broadband universal service commitment by 2012, and we are currently looking at how this might work in practice in more detail. The final findings will be available in the Full Digital Britain Report in late spring/early summer.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the minimum cost for access to broadband communication under the Digital Britain plan will be. [261196]

Ian Pearson: Under Digital Britain, we will be looking at the service levels appropriate to provide internet services that offer benefits for citizens, consumers and the environment. We aim to facilitate a competitive market by setting a policy framework that balances commercial and consumer's interests.

Defence Equipment: Procurement

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he has taken to ensure that small to medium-sized enterprises have information on and access to European procurement programmes for security and defence equipment technologies; and through what media his Department advertises such programmes. [262394]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I have been asked to reply.

We fully recognise the important part that small and medium-sized enterprises play in delivering capability to our front-line forces and the MOD's policy aims to promote a fair and healthy supply network which is robust, consistently delivers to time, cost and quality, is responsive to rapidly changing requirements and is customer focused.

When advertising contract opportunities on European procurement programmes, the MOD uses media such as the Defence Contracts Bulletin, Official Journal of the European Union, the European Defence Agency (EDA) Electronic Bulletin Board and the Supply2.gov.uk website.

Manufacturing Industries: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has received following the West Midlands auto industry summit. [260451]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 3 March 2009]:* BERR received an open letter dated 20 February from *The Birmingham Post*, the *Birmingham Mail* and the *Coventry Telegraph* enclosing the communiqué developed at the West Midlands auto industry summit. The hon. Member for Aldridge-Brownhills (Mr. Shepherd) tabled a parliamentary question on 24 February asking when a reply could be expected and the Minister for the West Midlands also emailed BERR to ask the same question. A reply was sent to *The Birmingham Post* on 2 March. Copies of both letters have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Motor Industry: Government Assistance

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent steps his Department has taken to support the UK car industry. [261429]

Ian Pearson: The Automotive Assistance Programme is now open for business. A seminar was held on 11 March to inform companies, banks and industry representatives about applying for help. Following demand from the automotive sector for support under the "Train to Gain" scheme, the budget of £65 million has been increased substantially up to £100 million. Automotive firms are also eligible for support from other Government programmes and details are available at:

http://www.realhelpnow.gov.uk/

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will bring forward proposals to enable car finance companies to access the Bank of England's credit guarantee scheme. [261430]

Ian Pearson: My noble Friend, the Minister for Trade and Investment, is urgently exploring with the motor finance industry possible options to help improve the flow of liquidity to car finance companies. As part of this, he is considering industry proposals to access the Credit Guarantee Scheme (administered by the Debt Management Office) and other schemes administered by the Bank of England.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans he has to assist automobile companies owned or part-owned by foreign investors with manufacturing plants in the UK. [261148]

Ian Pearson: All automotive companies and suppliers with a turnover of at least £25 million recorded in their last published annual report and accounts and with a proposed investment of at least £5 million, who manufacture or propose to do so in the UK, and who meet the criteria can apply to the Automotive Assistance Programme announced on 27 January 2009. A range of other support is also available to companies based in the UK and details are available at:

www.businesslink.gov.uk/realhelp

Motor Vehicles: North East

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he is taking to support the motor manufacturing industry in the North East. [245804]

Ian Pearson: We are closely engaged with the automotive and other sectors in the UK, including companies in the North East. The Automotive Assistance Programme (AAP) which will support up to £2.3 billion of investment is open for applications. In addition to the AAP, we are helping the automotive sector secure support from the European Investment Bank, as well as providing support for low carbon R and D and up to £100 million for training. Wider help for business across the board is also applicable and further details are available at:

http://www.realhelpnow.gov.uk

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children: Abuse

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will investigate allegations that child abuse has taken place in the production of the Channel 4 programme Boys and Girls Alone; what representations *(a)* he and *(b)* other Ministers in his Department have made to Channel 4 on the matter; and if he will make a statement. [261530]

Beverley Hughes: The Department is fully aware of the programme 'Boys and Girls Alone' and the concerns that have been raised. Baroness Morgan has written to Channel 4 about the programme. She requested an explanation of how the production company assessed the safeguarding risks and the welfare issues concerning the children involved. This explanation has been received. We are currently considering what action might need to be taken in respect of the law relating to child performances.

Children: Protection

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many representations his Department has received from social workers on child protection issues in Doncaster since its was established; [248764]

(2) how many representations concerning child protection in Doncaster his Department has referred to *(a)* the Commission for Social Care Inspection and *(b)* Ofsted since it was established. [248765]

Beverley Hughes: The Department for Children, Schools and Families has no record of having received correspondence from any individual identifying themselves as a social worker, on child protection issues in Doncaster, nor of having referred any representations on child protection in that area to CSCI or Ofsted.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1116W, on children: protection, which staff of his Department are permitted to read anonymised full serious case reviews. [261072]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 5 March 2009]:* Copies of serious case reviews are seen by relevant members of the Department's Safeguarding Group when sent by Local Safeguarding Children Boards for the purpose of informing the biennial overview reports which analyse the key findings from SCRs as a whole and identify the implications for policy and practice. Members of the Government offices may also see relevant individual anonymised SCRs to inform their support and challenge role in relation to LSCBs and local authorities.

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what finance and support his Department provided for the production of series *(a)* one, *(b)* two and three of the Kids Taskforce Watch over me DVD. [262475]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Education and Skills contributed £75,000 towards the cost of producing the first series of Watch Over Me in 2003. The Department did not provide funding or support for the development of series two and three.

Departmental Data Protection

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what auditing his Department undertakes to ensure that IT security policies are being followed; and on how many occasions *(a)* IT security policies have been breached by employees and *(b)* a member of staff has been sanctioned for a breach of such policies in the last 12 months. [259785]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information is a key asset to Government and its correct handling is vital to the delivery of public services and to the integrity of HMG. The Security Policy Framework, the Data Handling Report and the National Information Assurance Strategy produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic framework for protecting information that Government handles and put in place a set of mandatory measures which Departments must adhere to.

The Department has a programme of regular and ad-hoc auditing in place to ensure policies are being followed, including audits of staff awareness/compliance and security sweeps of DCSF buildings.

For the period 1 March 2008 to 28 February 2009, the Department for Children, Schools and Families had two serious breaches of IT security policies, which resulted in one member of staff being dismissed and one member of staff having a laptop confiscated.

During the same period, the Department also had a number of less serious breaches, such as mobile IT equipment being stored in unlocked storage, which were dealt with in accordance with the Department's security breach policy.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's IT security hierarchy. [259786]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information is a key asset to Government and its correct handling is vital to the delivery of public services and to the integrity of HMG. The Security Policy Framework, the Data Handling Report and the National Information Assurance Strategy produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic framework for protecting information that Government handle and put in place a set of mandatory measures which Departments must adhere to.

It is not in the interest of the security of the Department, or that of the public, to disclose detailed information pertaining to the security of the Department's IT systems. Disclosing such information would enable criminals and those who would attempt to cause disruptive threats to the Department to deduce how to conduct attacks and therefore potentially enhance their capability to carry out such attacks.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what scanning for vulnerabilities his Department conducts of each of its IT devices; what method is used for IT device scans; and how many vulnerabilities have been detected as a result of such scans in the last 12 months. [259787]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information is a key asset to Government and its correct handling is vital to the delivery of public services and to the integrity of HMG. The Security Policy Framework, the Data Handling Report and the National Information Assurance Strategy produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic framework for protecting information that Government handle and put in place a set of mandatory measures which departments must adhere to.

It is not in the interest of the security of the Department, or that of the public, to disclose detailed information pertaining to electronic breaches of security of departments' IT systems. Disclosing such information would enable criminals and those who would attempt to cause disruptive threats to the department to deduce how to conduct attacks and therefore potentially enhance their capability to carry out such attacks.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what IT security policy his Department has; what procedures are in place to ensure the policy is being followed; what his Department's

policy is on encryption of data when it leaves departmental premises; and what sanctions are in place for failure to comply with this policy. [259858]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information is a key asset to Government and its correct handling is vital to the delivery of public services and to the integrity of HMG. The Security Policy Framework, the Data Handling Report and the National Information Assurance Strategy produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic framework for protecting information that Government handles and put in place a set of mandatory measures which Departments must adhere to.

The Department for Children, Schools and Families is compliant with the security policies contained in the Government Security Policy Framework including those for information security and assurance. Compliance arrangements comprise a system of self assessment, accreditation, assurance reporting, audit and review. Depending upon the circumstances, a range of sanctions are available including disciplinary or administrative action, and in extreme or persistent cases, termination of employment/services and, if appropriate, criminal proceedings.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his Department's entertainment budget was in each of the last five years. [261113]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department does not have a separate budget allocation for entertainment but forms part of the over all general administration budget.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many of his Department's staff received bonus payments in each year since his Department was established; and if he will make a statement. [259485]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department was formed on 28 June 2007. Non-consolidated performance payments have been paid in the financial year 2008-09 to 1,403 staff.

These payments were met within existing pay controls. Payments are used to drive high performance and those for the senior civil service are based on recommendations from the independent Senior Salaries Review Body.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what payments for *(a)* polling and *(b)* other services his Department has made to (i) Deborah Mattinson and (ii) Opinion Leader Research Limited since 31 December 2007; and if he will make a statement. [261063]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I can confirm that the Department for Children, Schools and Families have no record of any payments made to Deborah Mattinson or Opinion Leader Research Limited since 31 December 2007.

Departmental Rail Travel

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost was of travel by train by staff in his Department in each year since 1997. [261268]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) was created as a result of the Machinery of Government changes in June 2007. Prior to June 2007, it was Department for Education and Skills (DFES) and previously it was Department for Education and Employment (DFEE). The cost of train travel since 1997 for the department's staff was:

	£
2007-08	5,087,473
2006-07	8,554,652
2005-06	8,002,118
2004-05	7,595,075
2003-04	7,443,199
2002-03	6,755,749

Figures have been obtained from the department's travel booking framework with Carlson Wagonlit Travel. The spend figure for 2007-8 includes train travel for former DFES staff who now work for Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS).

The figures from 2002-03 to 2006-07 includes train spend for the Department and non departmental public bodies who use the contract. Figures could not be separated for this period and to separate this data would involve disproportionate cost.

Prior to 2002 figures are not available and could not be obtained at disproportionate cost.

The Civil Service Management Code sets outs regulations and instructions to departments and agencies regarding the terms and conditions of service of civil servants and the delegations which have been made by the Minister for the Civil Service under the Civil Service (Management of Functions) Act 1992 together with the conditions attached to those delegations.

The Code can be accessed at:

http://beta.civilservice.gov.uk/about/work/codes/csmc/index.aspx

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department issues on whether staff may claim for first class rail travel if there are no seats available in standard class. [262030]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Departmental guidance on rail travel requires all staff to book tickets through a contracted travel agent. This is in order to ensure that the best value for money is achieved through taking full advantage of advance bookings and discounts for fixed time departures. Staff, who usually travel in standard class would be permitted to upgrade to first class, if no standard seats were available, at their manager's discretion. It would be for individual line managers to assess the relative cost of staff travelling first class against the importance and nature of the journey in relation to the Department's business.

All travel undertaken by DCSF staff is undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the "Civil Service Management Code" and Treasury guidance set out in "Managing Public Money".

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much expenditure was incurred in respect of overseas visits which *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers in his Department and *(c)* his Department's senior officials undertook in 2008. [262148]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Since 1999, the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the financial year 2007-08 was published on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 102WS and for the first time, included details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. Details for the current financial year will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. All travel by Ministers is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Information on overseas visits for senior officials can be obtained only at disproportionate cost. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Civil Service Management Code.

Free School Meals

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether people aged between 16 and 18 years in full-time education studying *(a)* school sixth forms, *(b)* sixth form colleges, *(c)* further education colleges and *(d)* academies, whose parents fulfil the qualifying criteria, are entitled to free lunches; and if he will make a statement. [241627]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Pupils aged between 16 and 18 years in full-time education, studying at school sixth forms or academies, are entitled to free school meals if their parents meet the free school meals eligibility criteria. Pupils attending sixth form colleges or further education colleges are not entitled.

Free school meals are provided under s512ZB of the Education Act 1996 (as amended by s201 of the Education Act 2002). The Education Act 1996 defines "school" as an education institution outside further education and higher education and which provides primary and/or secondary education. It also provides that secondary education applies to senior pupils (i.e. aged 12-18), and also to those who are 19 or over, as long as they began their course of study before attaining the age of 18.

Haringey Borough Council: Standards

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will place in the Library a copy of the inspection report carried out by Ofsted of Haringey Council with reference *(a)* SC042906 and *(b)* SC072906. [262207]

Beverley Hughes: The Ofsted report on Haringey's Fostering Service (SC042906) is available on Ofsted's website at:

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/oxcare_providers/la_download/(id)/5064/(as)/SC/SC_SC042906_20032008.pdf

and the Ofsted report on Haringey's Private Fostering Arrangements Service (SC072906) is available at:

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/oxcare_providers/la_download/(id)/6224/(as)/SC/SC_SC072906_08032008.pdf

Both documents have been placed in the Library.

Parenting Orders: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many parenting orders have been *(a)* sought by and *(b)* granted to schools in Hemel Hempstead constituency in each year since their inception. [261269]

Jim Knight: The Department has collected and published data since 1 September 2004 on the use by local authorities of education-related parenting orders for school attendance and behaviour. Since September 2007 schools have been allowed to apply for a parenting order for behaviour and our data show that no school has applied for nor been granted a parenting order. In relation to school attendance orders only local authorities can be granted an order by the courts following a successful prosecution of the parent for their child's non attendance. To date our data show that no court has granted Hertfordshire local authority (which covers Hemel Hempstead area) an attendance order.

Schools: Admissions

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what guidance his Department has issued to schools on the use of supplementary information forms as part of their admissions processes; and if he will make a statement; [262323]

(2) how many *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools use supplementary information forms as part of their admissions procedures; and if he will make a statement. [262324]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The School Admissions Code sets out the mandatory requirements and guidelines for schools when using supplementary information forms as part of their admissions process.

As these arrangements are determined locally, we do not hold data centrally on the number of schools who do so.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools the Schools Adjudicator has criticised for their use of supplementary information forms in their admissions process; and if he will make a statement. [262325]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In his 2008 report to the Secretary of State, the chief schools adjudicator, reported seven objections in 2007/08 to the use of supplementary information forms, of which six were upheld; and 13 objections in 2006/07, of which 11 were upheld.

As admission arrangements are determined locally, we do not hold data centrally on the number of schools who use supplementary information forms.

Social Services: Yorkshire and the Humber

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many serious case reviews have been completed in Yorkshire and the Humber in each year since 2000; how many such reviews initiated since 2000 are still ongoing; and if he will make a statement. [251065]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 26 January 2009]:* Data currently held by the Department for Children, Schools and Families indicate that, from notifications of serious child care incidents received between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008, 17 serious case reviews had been initiated in the Yorkshire and the Humber region where a child died and abuse or neglect was known or suspected to be a factor. A further seven were initiated in other circumstances, including where a child sustained a potentially life-threatening injury or serious and permanent impairment of health and development through abuse or neglect. Data prior to 1 April 2007 are not available in this form. Information on the numbers of serious case reviews following the death of a child in each local authority area between 2000 and 2005 has been given in a previous parliamentary answer on 24 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 839W. We understand that some 18 serious case reviews are currently ongoing in the region. The figure does not include SCRs which have now been completed and evaluated by Ofsted or are awaiting evaluation.

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which trade unions are recognised in his Department. [262079]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department recognises three trade unions:

Public and Commercial Services Union;

Prospect; and

FDA.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departmental Data Protection

Paul Holmes: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* memory sticks, *(b)* laptop computers, *(c)* desktop computers, *(d)* hard drives and *(e)* mobile telephones were (i) lost by and (ii) stolen from the Prime Minister's Office in each year since 1997. [262391]

Kevin Brennan: The Prime Minister's Office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office.

Figures in respect of lost and stolen officially provided equipment for the Cabinet Office are given as follows. Figures prior to 2004 are not available.

2004-08

Item	*Number*
Memory sticks	3
Laptop computers	13
Desk top computers	0
Hard drives	8
Mobile phones	20

No classified material was held on any of those devices.

The Cabinet Office has put in place a number of measures to improve its protection of personal information; including the encryption of mobile devices and the training of staff in relation to data security is well under way. The Cabinet Office is continuing to take all necessary actions to ensure that it meets the mandatory rules and deadlines for Departments as set out in the Cabinet Secretary's Data Handling Report published on 25 June 2008.

Departmental Manpower

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many staff were employed by the Prime Minister's Office in each year since 1997. [261270]

Mr. Watson: Details of the number of staff employed by the Prime Minister's Office each year are published annually. For information for 2008 I refer the hon. Member to the answer the Prime Minister gave to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 1 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 624W. For information for 2007 I refer the hon. Member to the answer he gave the hon. Member for Epsom and Ewell (Chris Grayling) on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 819W. For information for previous years I refer the hon. Member to the answers given by the then Prime Minister (right hon. Tony Blair) to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) on 26 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 2036W, and to the hon. Member for Upper Bann (David Simpson) on 2 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 633W.

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much expenditure was incurred in respect of overseas visits which *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers in the Cabinet Office and *(c)* senior Cabinet Office officials undertook in 2008. [262149]

Kevin Brennan: Since 1999, the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the financial year 2007-08 was published on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 102WS and for the first time included details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All travel by Ministers is undertaken in accordance with the 'Ministerial Code'.

Information relating for 2008-09 will published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year.

Details on the amount spent on overseas visits by Cabinet Office senior officials in 2008 is not held centrally and is therefore available only at disproportionate cost.

All travel by Cabinet Office Ministers and Cabinet Office senior officials is in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the requirement to make efficient and cost-effective travel arrangements.

Job Vacancies

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* part-time and *(b)* full-time vacancies there were for (i) temporary and (ii) permanent jobs in the UK in each (A) year since 1997 and (b) month of the last two years. [262330]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many (a) part-time and (b) full-time vacancies there were for (i) temporary and (ii) permanent jobs in the UK in (A) each year since 1997 and (B) each month of the last two years. (262330)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles estimates of job vacancies for the UK from the Vacancy Survey. However, no figures are available from this source regarding whether these vacancies are full-time, part-time, permanent or temporary.

Office for National Statistics: Empty Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the estimated cost in empty property business rates for the vacant properties recorded on the e-PIMS database owned by the Office for National Statistics is in 2008-09. [258541]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what the estimated cost in empty business rates for vacant properties owned by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) is in 2008-09. (258541)

The cost of empty property business rates for ONS in 2008-09 is £620,165

TREASURY

Crown Estate Commissioners

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much the Crown Estate has budgeted for expenditure on empty property business rates in 2008-09; [262536]

(2) how many home information packs have been purchased by the Crown Estate to date; what the cost of such purchases has been; in respect of which properties the packs have been purchased; and how many voluntary home condition reports have been purchased to date. [262538]

Angela Eagle: The Crown Estate budgets comprehensively for void costs relating to empty properties. This includes costs such as council tax or business rates, utility bills, insurance, along with other general maintenance costs. Void costs are budgeted on a property by property basis and empty property business rates are not specifically itemised.

The Crown Estate has purchased 42 home information packs to date. The total cost of these purchases is around £15,000.

The purchases relate to properties on the Crown Estate's land in:

Central London; Aldingham, Bingham, Boroughbridge, Derwent, Dunster, Ewerby, Fochabers, Glenlivet, Gopsall, Holmewood, Louth, Oxshott, Patshull, Tabley, Taunton, Whaplode, Wingland.

To date no voluntary home condition reports have been purchased.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 332W, on departmental consultants, which appointed expert advisers, other than special advisers and civil servants, provide advice to Ministers in his Department. [262615]

Ian Pearson: The work of all Treasury's expert advisers, with the exception of that relating to the specific responsibilities of the accounting officer, contributes directly or indirectly either to advice given to Ministers or its implementation.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff in his Department *(a)* were disciplined and *(b)* had their employment terminated as a result of a poor sickness record in each of the last 12 months. [262221]

Angela Eagle: There have been no such cases within the last 12 months.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to ensure that his Department's annual estimates presented to Parliament include funding allocated to non-departmental public bodies. [262641]

Yvette Cooper: The Treasury does not, at present, have responsibility for any non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs). In the event that this position changes, amounts payable to NDPBs will be included within the next available supply estimate as appropriate.

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much expenditure was incurred in respect of overseas visits which *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers in his Department and *(c)* his Department's senior officials undertook in 2008. [262171]

Ian Pearson: Since 1999, the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the financial year 2007-08 was published on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 102WS, and for the first time, included details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. Information on overseas travel and subsistence by grade is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. For information on total spending on overseas travel and subsistence by the Treasury in 2007-08, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for St. Albans (Anne Main) on 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1478W. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the "Civil Service Management Code" and the "Ministerial Code".

Environment Protection: Expenditure

Martin Horwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of public spending announced in the fiscal stimulus packages announced since October 2008 has been incurred on green initiatives; and what projects and programmes this spending is for. [263154]

Ian Pearson: The pre-Budget report in November 2008 announced a £535 million green stimulus, representing 18 per cent. of the £3 billion capital spending stimulus. The green stimulus includes:

£100 million of new funding for Warm Front, and £50 million brought forward. This will help around 60,000 low income households cut their energy bills through insulation and improved heating systems;

£60 million to provide 16,000 social houses with energy efficiency and heating measures as part of an accelerated Decent Homes programme

£300 million to accelerate the delivery of up to 200 new carriages to expand capacity on the rail network;

£20 million of spending on flood defences, to deliver earlier protection for 27,000 homes; and

£5 million of spending on British Waterways network infrastructure.

Taken together with the energy efficiency package announced in September 2008, Government have brought forward £1.5 billion of green activity across the public and private sector.

Fred Goodwin

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) on which date he was first informed of the pension arrangements put in place by Royal Bank of Scotland in respect of its former chief executive, Sir Fred Goodwin; [261841]

(2) on which date he first discussed with representatives of Royal Bank of Scotland the pension arrangements that had been put in place in respect of Sir Fred Goodwin. [262131]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 9 March 2009]:* The Government were not involved in negotiating and did not give approval to or sign-off Sir Fred Goodwin's pension or the basis of his departure from the company. These matters were determined by members of the board of the Royal Bank of Scotland.

I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer the Financial Services Secretary to the Treasury, Lord Myners, gave Lord Taylor of Warwick on 5 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns WA172-73.

Friendly Societies: Accountancy

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to raise the threshold above which friendly societies are required to submit reports on annual accounts. [262328]

Ian Pearson: All friendly societies that are insurers are required to appoint auditors who must prepare a report and submit it to the society and the FSA.

Friendly societies that do not carry out insurance activities are able to be exempt from the audit and accounts requirements in the Friendly Societies Act 1974.

There is an automatic exemption for the very small, and societies with assets of up to £1.4 million and turnover of up to £350,000 may opt not to report to the FSA. Adoption of this optional exemption must be approved by a vote of members of the society.

I am not aware that the Government have received any representations from friendly societies on these limits and exemptions, and I understand that most societies provide auditors' reports for purposes of transparency and financial propriety.

Income Tax

Lynne Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the Exchequer of raising the personal tax allowance to *(a)* £7,000 and *(b)* £9,000. [262989]

Mr. Timms: Estimates of the cost of increasing the personal allowance can be approximated from table 1.6 'Direct effects of illustrative tax changes' on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_expenditures/table1-6.pdf

The figures exclude any estimate of behaviour[redacted]

Lynne Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the revenue which would accrue from the introduction of a 30 per cent. rate of income tax for a *(a)* £3,000 and *(b)* £5,000 income band lower than the threshold for the 40 per cent. rate. [263007]

Mr. Timms: The estimated full year revenue yield for 2008-09 of introducing a 30 per cent. rate of income tax on a band of taxable income between £31,800 and the basic rate limit of £34,800 is £1.1 billion, and between £29,800 and £34,800 is £2.0 billion.

These estimates are based on the 2005-06 Survey of Personal Incomes projected forward using pre-Budget 2008 assumptions. It excludes any estimate of behavioural response and assumes the rate of tax on dividends is unchanged.

Local Income Tax: Scotland

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the letter sent by the head of HM Revenue and Customs to the Scottish Executive on the collection of local income tax. [262675]

Mr. Timms: I have placed a copy of the letter dated 23 January 2009 from Dave Hartnett (HM Revenue and Customs, permanent secretary for tax) to Sir John Elvidige (permanent secretary, Scottish Executive) in the Library.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for the Forest of Dean of 30 January 2009 on Northern Rock mortgages, reference FD8395. [262968]

Ian Pearson: Due to the large volume of correspondence received on these issues there has been a delay in sending some responses. The Financial Services Secretary hopes to be in a position to reply to the hon. Member shortly.

John Penrose: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the letters from the hon. Member for Weston-Super-Mare of 27 November 2008 and 5 January 2009 sent on behalf of his constituent Mr. Paul Ritchie. [263423]

Ian Pearson: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to reply to the letter dated 12 January 2009 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mrs. V. Grundry, transferred from the Department for Work and Pensions. [263652]

Mr. Timms: I have replied to the right hon. Member.

Public Expenditure

Mr. Hague: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what financial transfers his Department has made to *(a)* the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and *(b)* the Department for International Development in 2008-09 to fund shortfalls in funding caused by exchange rate movements; and if he will make a statement. [261883]

Yvette Cooper: On 12 February 2009, the Foreign Secretary's written ministerial statement on departmental expenditure limits included an additional £6,500,000 for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for adverse currency fluctuations. The Department for International Development (DFID) pays the vast majority of its development grants in sterling which limits the impact on the Department from exchange fluctuations. DFID has received no additional funds for currency fluctuations.

Public Sector: Termination of Employment

Norman Lamb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many personalised settlements have been reached with public sector employees on termination of employment where the settlement required Treasury approval under the Treasury guidance Managing Public Money, Annex 4.13, because the settlement exceeded contractual entitlement in each of the last five years; and what the monetary value of those settlements over and above contractual entitlement was in each of the last five years. [262385]

Yvette Cooper: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Smuggling: Tobacco

David Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* front line, *(b)* investigative and *(c)* overseas-based staff of HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) were working to prevent tobacco smuggling in each of the last five years for which figures are available; what estimate he has made of the proportion of time staff in each category spent on tackling tobacco smuggling in each of those years; and how much was allocated to HMRC's work on tobacco smuggling in each of those years. [261754]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 10 March 2009]:* In many areas of enforcement and compliance activity, HMRC's officers work multi-functionally. So, for example, officers might investigate a criminal gang involved in a range of fraud and smuggling activities, or detect a freight consignment containing both illicit tobacco and prohibited drugs. It is therefore not possible to say precisely how many staff were working on tobacco smuggling in the years specified. However, the following figures are HMRC's best estimate of the full-time equivalents of staff employed on tackling tobacco smuggling in the years between 2005-06 and 2007-08. Figures for 2000-01 to 2004-05 are not available.

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Detection	1,407	1,557	1,574
Investigation	319	278	287
Intelligence	279	295	264
Total	2,005	2,130	2,125

The figures for intelligence include the network of overseas fiscal crime liaison officers (FCLOs), who cover around 48 countries. However, the numbers and locations of FCLOs is sensitive information and cannot be disclosed.

Stamp Duty Land Tax

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many housing transactions to date have been affected by the temporary increase in the stamp duty land tax threshold; and what estimate he has made of the revenue to the Exchequer forgone as a result of the higher threshold. [262535]

Ian Pearson: Between the start of the temporary increase in the stamp duty land tax threshold and the end of January it is estimated that 63,000 housing transactions purchased at between £125,000 and £175,000 had their stamp duty land tax bill reduced to nil.

The estimated exchequer cost of the stamp duty land tax holiday, published in the pre-Budget report, was £280 million.

Valuation Office: Freedom of Information

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what requests have been made to the Valuation Office Agency under the *(a)* Freedom of Information Act 2000 and *(b)* Environmental Information Regulations 2004 in the last 12 months; and what the (i) case reference number, (ii) nature of information requested and (iii) request outcome was in each case; and, in respect of those cases where the request was denied, what the reason for exemption was. [262539]

Mr. Timms: The Valuation Office Agency's 2008 Freedom of Information Act statistics on their requests, including (i), (ii), (iii), with their Environmental Information Regulations request statistics, will be finalised at the end of the current financial year (2008-09) for publication on the Ministry of Justice website. I will place a copy of these statistics in the Library at the same time.

Valuation Office: Rent Service

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 29 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 684-85W, on the Valuation Office: Rent Service, and with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for

Welwyn Hatfield of 20 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 776W, on the Valuation Office: reorganisation, what property attributes and information the Rent Service held prior to its transfer to the Valuation Office Agency. [262612]

Mr. Timms: The property attributes and information held by the Rent Service required for the majority of the cases that are subject to a rent officer function includes:

the type of residential property;
the number of living rooms;
the number of bedrooms;
information on kitchen facilities
information on bathroom and toilet facilities;
information on any outbuildings and their use;
information on the accessibility of statutory services;
details of the tenancy including:
the term
the commencement date
the rent
the provision of any services
the provision of any furniture
as appropriate, any special terms

Additionally, the property attributes and information held by the Rent Service required for a minority of the cases that are subject to a rent officer function, in addition to the above, includes:

the age of the property;
the size of the accommodation;
the method of heating;
the state of repair;
details of any disrepair attributable to the tenant;
details of any improvements carried out by the tenant;
further details of the tenancy:
a copy of any:
lease
agreement
inventory
schedule of services
repairing liabilities
terms for the treatment of any service charges
details of any gardens/grounds and their use.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 29 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 684-85W, on the Valuation Office: Rent Service, and with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 20 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 776W, on the Valuation Office: reorganisation, whether property attribute information held by the Rent Service will be utilised by the Valuation Office Agency for council tax valuation purposes. [262613]

Mr. Timms: With effect from 1 April 2009, all property attribute information formerly held by the Rent Service will be transferred to the Valuation Office Agency.

Valuation Office: Rightmove

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the estimated cost to the Valuation Office Agency in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10 of the service provided by Rightmove following the extension of the contract between HM Revenue and Customs and Rightmove.co.uk plc is. [262499]

Mr. Timms: Payments to third parties will be published in the Valuation Office Agency's Report and Accounts in due course.

VAT

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the average annual saving to be made by *(a)* all households and *(b)* working age households without children in each income decile as a result of the reduction in the rate of value added tax to 15 per cent; [262312]

(2) what estimate he has made of the average annual saving to be made by households as a result of the reduction in the rate of value added tax to 15 per cent. where the head of the household was aged *(a)* 25 years or under, *(b)* 26 to 30, *(c)* 31 to 35, *(d)* 36 to 40, *(e)* 41 to 45, *(f)* 46 to 50, *(g)* 51 to 55, *(h)* 56 to 60, *(i)* 61 to 65, *(j)* 66 to 70, *(k)* 71 to 75, *(l)* 76 to 80 and *(m)* over 80 years. [262314]

Mr. Timms: Table 14 in 'The effects of taxes and benefits on household incomes, 2006-07'

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/elmr/07_08/downloads/ELMR_Jul08_Jones.pdf

presents information on spending on VAT, on average, accounted for by households in each income decile.

Household spending patterns vary widely within deciles and household types, so estimates of savings on such a basis should be treated with caution. This is exacerbated by there being greater sampling variability associated with estimates for deciles and groups of given household types due to the relatively small sample sizes.

Subject to these caveats, the following tables provide estimates of the benefit of the VAT reduction, for all households and for non-retired households without children, by income decile based on figures for average expenditures on VAT published by the ONS in their article 'The effects of taxes and benefits on household incomes, 2006-07'. Figures for average expenditures on VAT by age of the head of the household are not available, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The estimates assume the majority of the VAT reduction will be passed on to consumers in the form of lower prices in line with past experience, and that spending patterns remain unchanged.

Decile groups of all households ranked by equivalised disposable income

	Saving (percentage of gross income)
Bottom	1.6
2nd	1.1
3rd	1.0
4th	0.9
5th	0.8
6th	0.8
7th	0.8
8th	0.8
9th	0.7
Top	0.5

Decile groups of non-retired households without children ranked by equivalised disposable income	*Saving (percentage of gross income)*
Bottom	1.6
2nd	1.0
3rd	0.8
4th	0.7
5th	0.7
6th	0.7
7th	0.7
8th	0.6
9th	0.7
Top	0.5

Written Questions: Government Responses

Paul Holmes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to answer question 248252, on loss of departmental property, tabled on 12 January 2009. [262505]

Angela Eagle: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects to answer question 247992 tabled on 12 January 2009, on small businesses; what the reason is for the time taken to reply; and if he will make a statement. [263294]

Angela Eagle: Question 247992 was transferred to the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. The hon. Gentleman was notified of the transfer in the usual way.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Allotments

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's policy on the sale for development of allotments is. [262322]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local authorities are required under section 8 of the Allotments Acts 1925 to obtain consent from the Secretary of State to dispose of statutory allotments. Consent cannot be given unless the Secretary of State is satisfied that certain criteria are met. These criteria are as follows:

- the allotment in question is not necessary and is surplus to requirement;
- adequate alternative provision will be made for displaced plot holders;
- the number of people on the waiting list has been taken into account;
- that the authority have actively promoted and publicised the availability of sites and have consulted the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners; and
- the implications of disposal for other relevant policies, in particular development plan policies, have been taken into account.

In addition, planning policy guidance note 17 Open Space, Sport and Recreation, requires that existing open space, including allotments should not be built on unless an assessment has been undertaken by the local planning authority which has clearly shown the open space to be surplus to local requirements.

Business Improvement Districts

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what business improvement districts have been established in each local authority area in each year since 1997. [262429]

John Healey: The following table shows the BIDs that have been established to date in each local authority area.

BID location	*Region*	*Local authority*
Eastern		
Bedford	Eastern	Bedford borough council
Great Yarmouth BID Norfolk	Eastern	Great Yarmouth borough council
Ipswich BID Suffolk	Eastern	Ipswich borough council
Royston First Business Improvement Company	Eastern	Hertfordshire district council
East Midlands		
Boston BID	East Midlands	Boston borough council
Daventry First	East Midlands	Daventry district council
Derby Cathedral Quarter Company Ltd.	East Midlands	Derby city council
Leicester	East Midlands	Leicester city council
Nottingham Leisure Bid	East Midlands	Nottingham city council
Sleaford	East Midlands	North Kesteven district council
London		
Garratt Business Park Management Ltd.	London	London borough of Wandsworth
Kimpton BID	London	London borough of Sutton
Kingston First Kingston upon Thames Surrey	London	Royal borough of Kingston upon Thames
Hammersmith-London BID	London	Hammersmith and Fulham
London Angel Town Centre BID	London	Islington council
London Leytonstone Town Centre (E11 BID)	London	Waltham Forest
London Riverside BID Ltd. (Industrial Estate)	London	LB of Havering

BID location	Region	Local authority
London Argyll Industrial BID	London	Waltham Forest
London Heart of London	London	Westminster city council
London New West End Company	London	Westminster city council
London BID	London	Westminster city council
London The Holborn Partnership BID	London	London borough of Camden
London Better Bankside	London	London borough of Southwark
London Bridge BID	London	London borough of Southwark
London Waterloo Quarter Business Alliance BID	London	London borough of Lambeth
London Camden Town Unlimited	London	London borough of Camden
London Ealing Broadway BID	London	London borough of Ealing
London Hainault Business Partnership BID (Industrial Estate)	London	London borough of Redbridge
South East		
Brighton City Centre BID	South East	Brighton and Hove council
Croydon Surrey	South East	Croydon council
Reading BID	South East	Reading borough council
Segensworth Business Forum Ltd. (Industrial Estate)	South East	Fareham borough council city council
Southern Cross Industrial Estate BID Bognor Regis	South East	Arun district council
Worthing Town Centre Bid	South East	Worthing borough council
Winchester Hampshire	South East	Winchester city council
South West		
Bristol Broadmead	South West	Bristol city council
Bristol Cater Business Park BID Industrial Estate	South West	Bristol city council
Dorchester BID Company	South West	West Dorset district council
Plymouth BID	South West	Plymouth city council
Swindon Town Centre BID	South West	Swindon borough council
Taunton Town Centre BID	South West	Taunton Deane borough council
Truro Cornwall	South West	Carrick district council
North West		
Longhill and Sandgate BID	North East	Hartlepool borough council
Newcastle City Centre	North West	Newcastle city council
Teesside Cowpen Industrial Estate	North East	Stockton and Tees council
Altham Lancashire Industrial Estate	North West	Hyndburn borough council
Astmoor Industrial Estate	North West	Halton borough council
Blackburn EDZ BID Industrial Estate	North West	Blackburn with Darwen borough council
Blackpool Town Centre BID	North West	Blackpool borough council
Bolton Industrial Estate, Greater Manchester	North West	Bolton metropolitan borough council
Halebank Industrial Estate, Widnes	North West	Halton borough council
Keswick BID Cumbria	North West	Allerdale borough council
Liverpool City Central BID	North West	Liverpool city council
Oldham BID	North West	Oldham borough council
Preston	North West	Preston city council
Winsford 1-5 BID Cheshire	North West	Vale Royal borough council
West Midlands		
Birmingham Broad Street BID	West Midlands	Birmingham city council
Birmingham Retail BID	West Midlands	Birmingham city council
Birmingham Erdington BID	West Midlands	Birmingham city council
Cannock Chase BID Industrial Estate Staffordshire	West Midlands	Cannock Chase DC
Colmore	West Midlands	Birmingham city council
Coventry 'City Wide' BID	West Midlands	Coventry city council
Coventry CV One Ltd.	West Midlands	Coventry city council
Hinckley	West Midlands	Hinckley and Bosworth borough council
Kings Heath Business Association	West Midlands	Birmingham city council
Lancing Business Park	West Midlands	West Sussex county council
Rugby BID	West Midlands	Rugby borough council
Warwickshire Baylon Industrial Estate BID	West Midlands	Warwick district council
Leamington Spa Town Centre BID	West Midlands	Warwick district council
West Bromwich Albion Business Forum	West Midlands	Sandwell metropolitan borough council

BID location	Region	Local authority
Yorkshire and Humberside		
Hull BID East Riding of Yorkshire	Yorkshire and Humberside	Hull city council
Skipton—Gateway to the Dales	Yorkshire and Humberside	Craven district council

Community Development

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 14 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 768-9W, on community development, for what reasons her Department decided not to proceed with plans for the establishment of neighbourhood improvement districts. [262541]

John Healey: The Government decided not to proceed with neighbourhood improvement districts (NIDs) because there was no hard evidence of demand for them, but clear public concern about council tax levels, and NIDs would have increased burdens on council tax payers. In addition, local authorities, including parish councils, already have powers to provide many of the services that a NID could provide, such as local wardens or neighbourhood managers. The Government have simplified the process for setting up parishes, and have also passed legislation enabling parish councils to be set up in areas that previously could not have them (e.g. London).

Conference Centres: Blackpool

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans her Department has to provide funding for the establishment of a new convention centre in Blackpool. [262974]

Mr. Khan: There are currently no plans to provide funding for the establishment of a new convention centre in Blackpool.

Council Tax

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of the merits of utilising the proposed data-sharing provisions in the Coroners and Justice Bill to facilitate data sharing between public authorities for the purpose of collection of local government taxation. [262656]

John Healey: No such assessment has been made.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities submit billing authority reports to the Valuation Office Agency via the Valuebill/e-BAR electronic interface. [262662]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1647W to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove).

Council Tax: Discounts

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether central Government grants to local authorities are adjusted to take account of the use by local authorities of discretionary powers to vary the council tax discount on *(a)* second and *(b)* long-term empty homes. [262374]

John Healey: The distribution of formula grant to local authorities in England takes account of the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the authority, together with its relative ability to raise council tax, expressed in terms of the council tax base.

The calculation of a council's tax base takes into account the band D-equivalent number of second homes and has done so since council tax was introduced in 1993.

Since 1 April 2004, billing authorities have been able to reduce the council discount for second homes in their area (to between 10 and 50 per cent.). A discount of 50 per cent. has continued to be assumed for all authorities in calculating the tax base for the purposes of distributing formula grant.

The actual discount applied to long-term empty homes is applied for all authorities in calculating the tax base for the purposes of distributing formula grant.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was raised by reducing the council tax discount on empty properties in each billing authority in the last year for which figures are available; and what proportion of the revenues were kept by central government in each case. [262664]

John Healey: The last year for which analysis is available is 2008-09. I have placed a table of estimates of the amount raised by reducing the council tax discount on empty properties in each billing authority in the Library of the House.

Council tax revenues are retained by councils. Any reduction in the discount for empty properties is reflected in the council's tax base, which is taken into account in calculating an authority's formula grant.

Additional revenue raised from reductions to the discount on long-term empty homes, 2008-09

Local authority	Additional revenue
Adur	111,632
Allerdale	—
Alnwick	222,346
Amber Valley	—
Arun	391,174
Ashfield	—
Ashford	345,514
Aylesbury Vale	—
Babergh	270,191

Additional revenue raised from reductions to the discount on long-term empty homes, 2008-09

Local authority	*Additional revenue*
Barking and Dagenham	—
Barnet	—
Barnsley	889,763
Barrow-in-Furness	—
Basildon	—
Basingstoke and Deane	—
Bassetlaw	476,947
Bath and North East Somerset	324,368
Bedford	385,435
Berwick-upon-Tweed	—
Bexley	472,441
Birmingham	2,741,128
Blaby	—
Blackburn with Darwen UA	—
Blackpool UA	—
Blyth Valley	174,575
Bolsover	—
Bolton	—
Boston	—
Bournemouth UA	673,433
Bracknell Forest UA	—
Bradford	—
Braintree	525,595
Breckland	—
Brent	975,503
Brentwood	—
Bridgnorth	170,075
Brighton and Hove	522,956
Bristol	—
Broadland	—
Bromley	701,541
Bromsgrove	269,431
Broxbourne	107,085
Broxtowe	314,307
Burnley	—
Bury	—
Calderdale	—
Cambridge	—
Camden	788,799
Cannock Chase	—
Canterbury	313,992
Caradon	296,863
Carlisle	—
Carrick	342,431
Castle Morpeth	152,327
Castle Point	210,976
Charnwood	—
Chelmsford	354,519
Cheltenham	302,289
Cherwell	213,263
Chester	—
Chesterfield	—
Chester-le-Street	—
Chichester	370,444
Chiltern	—
Chorley	—
Christchurch	152,321
City of London	—
Colchester	380,527
Congleton	—
Copeland	—

Additional revenue raised from reductions to the discount on long-term empty homes, 2008-09

Local authority	*Additional revenue*
Corby	—
Cotswold	223,540
Coventry	661,033
Craven	155,629
Crawley	106,643
Crewe and Nantwich	—
Croydon	1,142,293
Dacorum	—
Darlington UA	400,847
Dartford	150,232
Daventry	149,509
Derby UA	742,488
Derbyshire Dales	374,887
Derwentside	—
Doncaster	—
Dover	430,701
Dudley	—
Durham City	—
Ealing	807,831
Easington	—
East Cambridgeshire	—
East Devon	338,654
East Dorset	184,301
East Hampshire	—
East Hertfordshire	297,220
East Lindsey	—
East Northamptonshire	—
East Riding of Yorkshire UA	1,060,157
East Staffordshire	297,986
Eastbourne	228,019
Eastleigh	—
Eden	144,739
Ellesmere Port and Neston	130,592
Elmbridge	435,289
Enfield	1,131,456
Epping Forest	281,978
Epsom and Ewell	191,986
Erewash	—
Exeter	138,283
Fareham	163,331
Fenland	261,554
Forest Heath	187,953
Forest of Dean	—
Fylde	—
Gateshead	—
Gedling	—
Gloucester	255,521
Gosport	—
Gravesham	209,167
Great Yarmouth	203,052
Greenwich	—
Guildford	486,491
Hackney	—
Halton UA	—
Hambleton	295,301
Hammersmith and Fulham	534,158
Harborough	—
Haringey	488,000
Harlow	90,750
Harrogate	594,999
Harrow	229,629

Additional revenue raised from reductions to the discount on long-term empty homes, 2008-09

Local authority	*Additional revenue*
Hart	—
Hartlepool UA	—
Hastings	537,419
Havant	153,895
Havering	—
Herefordshire UA	442,368
Hertsmere	292,222
High Peak	271,910
Hillingdon	503,731
Hinckley and Bosworth	229,710
Horsham	297,391
Houndow	62,745
Huntingdonshire (new)	291,636
Hyndburn	—
Ipswich	453,792
Isle of Wight UA	566,258
Isles of Scilly	—
Islington	788,645
Kennet	166,030
Kensington and Chelsea	794,622
Kerrier	293,449
Kettering	249,310
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk	—
Kingston upon Hull UA	996,038
Kingston upon Thames	659,032
Kirklees	1,860,241
Knowsley	—
Lambeth	999,111
Lancaster	770
Leeds	301
Leicester UA	459
Lewes	287,918
Lewisham	289,213
Lichfield	—
Lincoln	—
Liverpool	3,498,083
Luton UA	425,855
Macclesfield	—
Maidstone	397,837
Malden	219,167
Malvern Hills (new)	251,442
Manchester	—
Mansfield	—
Medway Towns UA	814,232
Melton	134,438
Mendip	214,852
Merton	229,846
Mid Bedfordshire	—
Mid Devon	189,168
Mid Suffolk	254,621
Mid Sussex	297,584
Middlesbrough UA	—
Milton Keynes UA	348,557
Mole Valley	191,415
New Forest	341,343
Newark and Sherwood	—
Newcastle upon Tyne	—
Newcastle-under-Lyme	—
Newham	1,019,423
North Cornwall	364,899
North Devon	295,812
North Dorset	155,621
North East Derbyshire	—
North East Lincolnshire UA	523,846
North Hertfordshire	298,787
North Kesteven	—
North Lincolnshire UA	466,201
North Norfolk	469,891
North Shropshire	—
North Somerset UA	14,184
North Tyneside	—
North Warwickshire	—
North West Leicestershire	281,798
North Wiltshire	274,772
Northampton	—
Norwich	246,305
Nottingham City UA	1,268,803
Nuneaton and Bedworth	—
Oadby and Wigston	130,214
Oldham	—
Oswestry	106,624
Oxford	435,358
Pendle	—
Penwith	180,589
Peterborough UA	299,403
Plymouth UA	489,397
Poole UA	374,906
Portsmouth UA	451,359
Preston	—
Purbeck	33,508
Reading UA	435,198
Redbridge	965,160
Redcar and Cleveland UA	425,637
Redditch	—
Reigate and Banstead	136,237
Restormel	186,212
Ribble Valley	—
Richmond upon Thames	640,791
Richmondshire	236,518
Rochdale	—
Rochford	—
Rossendale	334,704
Rother	394,558
Rotherham	—
Rugby	219,718
Runnymede	246,641
Rushcliffe	406,378
Rushmoor	—
Rutland UA	139,153
Ryedale	221,958
Salford	—
Salisbury	—
Sandwell	1,010,509
Scarborough	494,658
Sedgefield	—
Sedgemoor	188,975
Sefton	1,758,655
Selby	281,575
Sevenoaks	330,145
Sheffield	1,805,937
Shepway	342,023
Shrewsbury and Atcham	195,823

Additional revenue raised from reductions to the discount on long-term empty homes, 2008-09

Local authority	*Additional revenue*
Slough UA	221,133
Solihull	—
South Bedfordshire	—
South Bucks	317,616
South Cambridgeshire	—
South Derbyshire	—
South Gloucestershire UA	256,332
South Hams	358,411
South Holland	122,075
South Kesteven	—
South Lakeland	—
South Norfolk	210,260
South Northamptonshire	207,091
South Oxfordshire	262,932
South Ribble	—
South Shropshire	—
South Somerset	454,282
South Staffordshire	243,038
South Tyneside	—
Southampton UA	455,600
Southend-on-Sea UA	468,931
Southwark	475,880
Spelthorne	240,610
St. Albans	310,544
St. Edmundsbury	133,373
St. Helens	546,628
Stafford	—
Staffordshire Moorlands	478,139
Stevenage	—
Stockport	—
Stockton-on-Tees UA	—
Stoke-on-Trent UA	839,967
Stratford-on-Avon	554,198
Stroud	245,294
Suffolk Coastal	368,811
Sunderland	—
Surrey Heath	—
Sutton	593,465
Swale	298,339
Swindon UA	154,013
Tameside	—
Tamworth	—
Tandridge	—
Taunton Deane	184,670
Teesdale	—
Teignbridge	445,062
Telford and Wrekin UA	200,793
Tendring	585,042
Test Valley	—
Tewkesbury	172,985
Thanet	721,724
Three Rivers	196,219
Thurrock UA	358,775
Tonbridge and Malling	143,120
Torbay UA	590,962
Torridge	152,938
Tower Hamlets	—
Trafford	739,993
Tunbridge Wells	330,140
Tynedale	224,420
Uttlesford	220,631

Additional revenue raised from reductions to the discount on long-term empty homes, 2008-09

Local authority	*Additional revenue*
Vale of White Horse	226,935
Vale Royal	—
Wakefield	—
Walsall	—
Waltham Forest	592,935
Wandsworth	152,681
Wansbeck	—
Warrington UA	—
Warwick	—
Watford	115,137
Waveney	442,751
Waverley	543,499
Wealden	444,811
Wear Valley	—
Wellingborough	199,040
Welwyn Hatfield	—
West Berkshire UA	330,293
West Devon	145,858
West Dorset	342,914
West Lancashire	—
West Lindsey	—
West Oxfordshire	79,265
West Somerset	188,333
West Wiltshire	221,701
Westminster	749,900
Weymouth and Portland	227,645
Wigan	—
Winchester	—
Windsor and Maidenhead UA	385,818
Wirral	—
Woking	—
Wokingham UA	—
Wolverhampton	—
Worcester	109,125
Worthing	223,247
Wychavon	301,516
Wycombe	399,380
Wyre	—
Wyre Forest	194,168
York UA	289,330

Notes:
These figures are estimates based on information reported by local authorities on the CTB1, CTB1(S) and BR1 forms for 2008-09.
All figures are rounded to the nearest pound.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many domestic dwellings in England have been assigned the code CL26 in each of the last three years. [262521]

John Healey: The number of properties, in England, reviewed and cleared with notification change code CL26 is as follows.

	Number
2006-07	39,017
2007-08	63,233
2008-09	46,452

Councillors: Allowances

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* regulations and *(b)* circulars have been issued on rules relating to councillor (i) allowances and (ii) pensions since May 1997. [262041]

John Healey: Since May 1997 the following statutory instruments have been made with regard to local authority members' allowances:

The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (Amendment) Regulations 1998/556 came into force: 1 April 1998

The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 1998/557 came into force: 1 April 1998

The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (Amendment) Regulations 1999/1086 came into force: 30 April 1999

The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 1999/1087 came into force: 30 April 1999

The Local Government Act 2000 came into force: 28 July 2001

The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2001/1280 came into force: 4 May 2001

The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003/1021 came into force: 1 May 2003

The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2003/1692 came into force: 31 July 2003

The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2004/2596 came into force: 3 November 2004

The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2003 related to pensions as well as allowances.

No circulars have been issued by the Government on this subject since May 1997.

Councillors: Arun

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1072W, on councillors: Arun, for what reasons Arun was chosen by the Audit Commission to ask councillors for their bank account details. [262097]

John Healey: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I will ask the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member directly.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 12 March 2009:1

Your Parliamentary Question on what reasons Arun was chosen by the Audit Commission to ask councillors for their bank account details has been passed to me for reply.

The Audit Commission confirms that there was no particular or additional request for data relating to Arun Council or its councillors in relation to the National Fraud Initiative and that they have been treated in exactly the same way as all other participants in the National Fraud Initiative.

One of the key sets of data matched under the National Fraud Initiative is payroll data. For example, by matching payroll data to Housing Benefit claimants' data we can identify potential fraudulent claims or overpayments. All mandatory participants in the National Fraud Initiative (for example, local councils, police authorities, probation boards, fire and rescue authorities, NHS bodies, etc) are required to provide bank account and sort codes in the payroll file submitted to the Audit Commission. The specific (and relatively limited) fields required for the National Fraud Initiative are set out in the published 'data specification'. This requires the payroll data submitted to include all individuals being paid a salary, wage, members' allowance or other remuneration at a particular point in time. It therefore covers all employees, board members and councillors.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's policy is on holding departmental away days outside her Department's buildings. [262028]

Mr. Khan: Communities and Local Government does not have a formal policy covering the arrangements for holding Departmental away days outside the Department's buildings.

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much expenditure was incurred in respect of overseas visits which *(a)* she, *(b)* other Ministers in her Department and *(c)* her Department's senior officials undertook in 2008. [262147]

Mr. Khan: The annual list of overseas travel by Ministers costing over £500 was last published on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 102WS. Details for the financial year 2008-09 will be published in due course. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the "Ministerial Code".

Expenditure for senior officials is not held centrally and could be compiled only at disproportionate cost. All travel by staff employed by Communities and Local Government is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code.

Eco-Towns

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 29 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 769W, on eco-towns, in which publications the Central Office of Information advertorials were placed. [262296]

Mr. Iain Wright: The advertorials commissioned through the Central Office of Information in respect of the first stage consultation were placed in the following publications:

Bedford Times & Citizen
Bicester Advertiser
Cambridge Evening News
Cornish Guardian
Doncaster Free Press
Eastern Daily Press
Farnham Herald Series
Herts & Essex Observer
Leicester Mercury
Lichfield Mercury Series
Louth Leader
Nottingham Evening Post
Oxford Mail

Skegness Standard
Stratford Upon Avon Herald
Worthing Herald Group
Yorkshire Evening Post

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions her Department has had with prospective developers of eco-towns on the desirability of alternate weekly collections in eco-town developments. [262602]

Margaret Beckett: The desirability of alternate weekly collections is something that promoters and local authorities will want to discuss as part of taking individual proposals forward. In the draft Eco-towns Planning Policy Statement we have set out the standards that eco-town proposals must meet, including for waste. It is for each eco-town proposal to demonstrate how they will achieve the standards.

Eco-Towns: Public Consultation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons the consultation process on eco-towns has been extended; and how many consultation responses her Department received prior to the extension. [262377]

Margaret Beckett: The second stage eco-towns consultation has been extended to 30 April 2009 in line with an undertaking that I made prior to the recent legal proceedings, which concluded in the Government's favour. This will ensure that the public and all stakeholders will have sufficient time to respond to the consultation and consider all the information that has been published on the policy, including the recently published study on the financial viability of the eco-towns programme.

Prior to the extension of the consultation we had received a number of consultation responses. We will issue our response to the consultation in due course following the close of the consultation, and this will include a summary of the numbers of responses and comments received.

Empty Property

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the restoration of long-term empty domestic dwellings for active use may be counted as a contribution towards a local authority's new dwellings target. [262597]

Mr. Iain Wright: The net additional homes target relates to new dwellings and does not include existing properties that have been returned to habitable use.

Energy Performance Certificates

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance has been provided on the location in a building where a display energy certificate should be displayed. [262663]

Margaret Beckett: The guidance on Display Energy Certificates (DECs) stipulates that a DEC must be placed in a prominent place clearly visible to the public. It recommends that the certificate should ideally be placed in the reception area, or entrance, of a building or be clearly visible from it.

European Commission: Financial Corrections

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department has paid the European Commission in financial corrections since 1997; and what levies for financial corrections were outstanding at the latest date for which figures are available. [262611]

John Healey: The Department has paid €24.8 million in financial corrections since 1997. There are no confirmed outstanding levies for financial corrections from the European Commission. We have made provision for a further financial correction relating to audits carried out by the European Commission on the closure of the 1997-99 round of structural funds programmes.

HomeBuy Scheme

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what targets she has set for levels of participation in HomeBuy Direct Schemes; and what timetable she has set for meeting these targets. [262371]

Margaret Beckett: No specific participation targets have been set for the HomeBuy Direct scheme.

The Government are making £400 million available in the remainder of 2008-09 and 2009-10 to help up to 18,000 first time buyers into home ownership through this scheme, but the actual number of transactions (and consequently, the actual amount of expenditure incurred by Government) will depend on take-up by first time buyers.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many housing transactions have been completed under the Homebuy Direct scheme to date. [262533]

Margaret Beckett: The new HomeBuy Direct scheme is in the process of being rolled out. Just under 6,000 HomeBuy Direct properties are now available to purchasers, and further properties will become available very soon. Given that a house purchase typically takes three to six months, no transactions have been completed to date.

Homes and Communities Agency

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government where each regional office of the Homes and Communities Agency is located; and whether each is co-located with the relevant *(a)* Government Office for the region and *(b)* regional assembly. [262682]

Margaret Beckett: A list of HCA regional office location is provided:

Ashford

Kent House
81 Station Road
Ashford

Kent
TN23 1PP

Birmingham
5 St. Philips Place
Colmore Row
Birmingham
B3 2PW

Bracknell
Atrium Court
The Ring
Bracknell
Berkshire
RG12 1DF

Bristol
1st Floor
Aztec Centre
Aztec West
Almondsbury
Bristol
BS32 4TD

Cambridge
Westbrook Centre
Block A, Suite 1
Milton Road
Cambridge
CB41YG

Croydon
Leon House
High Street
Croydon
Surrey
CR91UH

Exeter
Beaufort House
51 New North Road
Exeter
EX4 4EP

Gateshead
St. George's House
Kingsway
Team Valley
Gateshead
NE11 ONA

Leeds
2nd Floor
Lateral House
8 City Walk
Leeds
LS11 9AT

Leicester
Attenborough House
109-119 Charles Street
Leicester
LE1 1FQ

London Exchange Tower
10th Floor
2 Exchange Tower
Harbour Exchange Square
London
E14 9GS

Manchester
4th Floor
One Piccadilly Gardens
Manchester
M1 1RG

Milton Keynes
Central Business Exchange II
414-428 Midsummer Boulevard
Central Milton Keynes
MK9 2EA

Nottingham
The Belgrave Centre
Stanley Place
Talbot Street
Nottingham
NG15GG

Telford
Jordan House West
Hall Court
Hall Park Way
Telford
TF3 4NN

Warrington
Arpley House
110 Birchwood Boulevard
Birchwood
Warrington
WA3 7QH

Wolverhampton
31 Waterloo Road
Wolverhampton
WV1 4DJ

Of the current offices, Leeds, Birmingham and Nottingham are co-located with Government offices. No HCA regional office is co-located with a regional assembly.

Following the recent merger HCA is at present undertaking a review of the regional accommodation it has inherited, including consulting with staff. Given the current status of the restructuring process it is not possible, at this stage, to specify the future location of HCA regional offices. The yet to be agreed future structure will reflect business need and will unlock as many efficiency savings as possible.

Homes and Communities Agency: Public Relations

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many press, media and communications personnel the Homes and Communities Agency plans to employ. [262000]

Margaret Beckett: Given the current status of the HCA's restructuring process it is not possible, at this stage, to specify the number of staff that the HCA will employ in the press, media and communications functions when it is at full complement.

The HCA currently employ 30 full-time equivalent posts within its communications team which covers a broad range of national and regional functions including marketing, public relations, event management, stakeholder relations, internal communications, and community engagement and digital communications across the locations listed in the answer given today to PQ262682. At present four members of the 30 full-time posts are predominantly involved in press and media relations.

These figures do not include HCA Academy staff whose job functions include elements of communications. HCA Academy staff were inherited from predecessor bodies and are part of the HCA's current review of its corporate and regional structures.

Housing: Construction

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 107W, on Design for Manufacture Programme, if she will place in the Library a copy of the report commissioned by the Homes and Communities Agency analysing the cost data from the various developers. [262213]

Margaret Beckett: The first stage assessment work produced at the beginning of the competition process has been placed in the House Library—'Designed for Manufacture—Lessons learnt'. Research analysing the cost data is ongoing, and is due to be completed during the next financial year. A copy will be placed in the Library upon publication. It will also be made available on the Homes and Communities Agency website.

Joint Waste Authorities: Complaints

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether complaints about *(a)* joint waste authorities and *(b)* safety camera partnerships fall within the remit of the Local Government Ombudsman. [261983]

John Healey: Since 1 April 2008 complaints about the actions of joint waste authorities fall within the remit of the local government ombudsman.

Complaints about safety camera partnerships do not fall within the local government ombudsman remit, however, where a local authority is part of such a partnership, its actions, including in connection with the work of the partnership, are within the local government ombudsman remit.

Listed Buildings: Energy Performance Certificates

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what requirements there are on *(a)* listed buildings and *(b)* places of worship to (i) obtain and (ii) show a display energy certificate. [262318]

Margaret Beckett: A display energy certificate (DEC) is required for listed buildings where they are larger than 1,000m^2 and are occupied by a public body or by institutions providing public services to a large number of persons. A DEC is not required for places of worship.

LLM Communications

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2064W, on departmental procurement, what type of work was undertaken by LLM Communications to support regional housing debates; which such debates they were engaged to support; and how much was paid to the company for this work. [262216]

Mr. Iain Wright: LLM Communications were paid £38,200 between 2006 and 2007 to support the delivery of regional housing debates to help raise public awareness of the need for, and benefits of, housing growth; and stimulate debates on the future of house building. The debates involved members of the public, MPs, environmentalists, housing and homelessness experts.

Local Government: Fixed Penalties

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers to levy fines have been conferred on local authorities in the last 18 months. [261993]

John Healey: The Government do not hold a central register of powers introduced in the area. Departments are responsible for new legislative proposals affecting local government in those policy area for which they have responsibility. All new legislative proposals will need to go through the parliamentary scrutiny process.

Local Authority Business Growth Incentives Scheme

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding under the local authority business growth incentive scheme has been allocated to each local authority in each of the last four years. [263070]

John Healey: I have placed in the Library of the House, a table showing the funding allocations from the local authority business growth incentives (LABGI) scheme to each local authority for each of the financial years 2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09.

Local Government

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the latest version of the Handbook for the Joint Negotiating Committee for local authority chief executives. [262522]

John Healey: Copies of these agreements are obtainable from the Local Government Employers which, as part of the Joint Negotiating Committee, helps to determine the pay of local authority chief executives.

http://www.lge.gov.uk/lge/core/page.do?pageId=121908

Local Government Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of local authority funding *(a)* including and *(b)* excluding direct schools grant will be ring-fenced in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [262445]

John Healey: Including Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), the level of ring-fencing of local authority funding is 52.3 per cent. in 2008-09, and will be 50.2 per cent. in 2009-10

On a comparable basis, if DSG is excluded, the level of ring-fencing of local authority funding is 17.5 per cent. in 2008-09, and will be 14.6 per cent. in 2009-10.

Local Government: Pay

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what timetable she has established to bring forward legislative proposals to require greater public accountability on remuneration for senior staff in local government. [262002]

John Healey: I will publish shortly a statutory consultation of 12 weeks to bring about legislative changes which will require greater transparency on remuneration for senior staff in local government.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the local authority chief executives' pay agreement for *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [262625]

John Healey: Central Government does not participate in local government pay negotiations. A copy of each agreement can be obtained from the Local Government Employers, which is part of the National Joint Committee which determines the pay agreement for chief executives.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her policy is on wage inflation among local authority chief executives. [262680]

John Healey: A statutory consultation exercise of 12 weeks to bring about legislative changes and requiring greater transparency on remuneration for senior staff in Local Government, including pay, pensions, and severance costs, will be begin shortly.

The intention is that remuneration for senior staff will be included in annual accounts from 2009-10 onwards.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what obligations there are on local authorities to publish details of the *(a)* salary, *(b)* pension and *(c)* severance packages of their chief executives. [262688]

John Healey: Local Government is currently required to report details relating to salary, pensions and severance for all staff as required by the Code of Practice on Local authority Accounting in the United Kingdom Statement of Recommended Practice by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accounting.

Local Government: Pensions

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of total accrued liabilities in each fund within the local government pension scheme was represented by total assets; and what the monetary value of the deficit or surplus in each fund was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [262317]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 2 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 946W.

Local Government: Reorganisation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable for unitary restructuring is in each local authority area in which unitary restructuring is being considered by the Boundary Committee. [262241]

John Healey: The Secretary of State has extended the deadline for the Boundary Committee to provide advice on unitary proposals in Devon, Norfolk and Suffolk from 13 February to 15 July 2009. The statute provides that the Secretary of State may not make a decision about any unitary proposals put to her before the end of six weeks beginning on the date by which the committee has been requested to provide advice. On this basis, any orders to implement unitary proposals in Devon, Norfolk or Suffolk would be considered by Parliament in the autumn. If the orders are approved, new unitary authorities in these areas may be implemented on 1 April 2010 or, if this date proves to be impractical, on 1 April 2011.

London Thames Gateway Development Corporation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1215W, on Thames Gateway Development Corporation Planning Committee: business interests, on what date consent was given by the Secretary of State for the appointment of Mr. Alan Clark to the planning committee. [262214]

Margaret Beckett: My right hon. Friend the Member for Pontefract and Castleford (Yvette Cooper) approved the appointment of Mr. Alan Clark to the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation Planning Committee on 30 July 2007.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date the Homeowners Mortgage Support Scheme will become operational; and what estimate she has made of the number of households which will participate in the scheme in 2009-10. [262001]

Margaret Beckett: We are currently working with lenders to agree the Master Guarantee for the Homeowners Mortgage Support Scheme, which we expect to be open for business with the first lenders in April. We will publish a full impact assessment when the Master Guarantee Deed has been finalised.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households have received assistance under the Mortgage Rescue Scheme to date. [262140]

Margaret Beckett: The £200 million Government Mortgage Rescue Scheme has been operational across the country since 1 January 2009, following successful

'fast tracking' by 80 local authorities in December 2008. There has been widespread interest in the scheme. An informal telephone survey of 60 local authorities conducted by officials at Communities and Local Government on 18 February 2009 showed that over 500 applications have been made, resulting in approximately 180 cases meeting the eligibility criteria. Formal monitoring arrangements for all local authorities are currently being finalised, and we expect regional data on the number of households receiving assistance under the scheme to be available from April 2009.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 12 February 2009, Official Report, columns 73-6WS, on departmental expenditure limits, what future liabilities under the Homeowner Mortgage Support scheme she expects the non-cash provision to cover. [262585]

Margaret Beckett: The non-cash provision for the Homeowners Mortgage Support Scheme is in respect of any guarantees issued under the scheme in 2008-09. We are currently working with lenders to agree the Master Guarantee for the Homeowners Mortgage Support Scheme. We expect to be open for business with the first lenders in April, in which case no liabilities will have been entered into in 2008-09 and the non-cash provision will not have been needed. We will publish a full impact assessment when the Master Guarantee Deed has been finalised.

National Policy Statements

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many national policy statements she expects to be published; when each will be published; and what the subject of each will be. [262443]

Margaret Beckett: The Department for Communities and Local Government published a Route Map for implementation of the Infrastructure Planning Commission regime, including the current timetable for preparation of National Policy Statements, on its website on 27 January. Copies are also in the House Library.

Given the complexity of the implementation programme and the need for consultation on, and parliamentary scrutiny or approval for, many aspects of the regime, the timings given may well change. We will keep the Route Map under review and update it if there are significant changes.

Neighbourhood Renewal Fund

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding her Department provided under the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund partnership in each year since 2001-02; and what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of that funding. [263162]

John Healey: Neighbourhood Renewal Fund allocations were as follows:

	£ million
2001-02	200
2002-03	300
2003-04	400
2004-05	450
2005-06	525
2006-07	525
2007-08	525

The Department commissioned an independent evaluative study of Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF), published in November 2008, which examined effectiveness, outcomes and impact. This study confirmed the ways in which NRF contributed to neighbourhood renewal and found the Fund to have provided value for money. It can be found on the Communities website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/nrfimpactsoutcomes

Non-Domestic Rates

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many hereditaments there were on the ratings list in each of the last 24 months in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales. [262104]

John Healey: The following table details the number of hereditaments within the rating lists for the period 31 January 2007 to 31 December 2008.

2005 rating lists

As at	England	Wales	Number Total
31 January 2007	1,683,571	101,946	1,785,517
28 February 2007	1,684,647	101,791	1,786,438
31 March 2007	1,686,927	101,939	1,788,866
30 April 2007	1,686,486	101,767	1,788,253
31 May 2007	1,686,741	101,862	1,788,603
30 June 2007	1,687,470	101,921	1,789,391
31 July 2007	1,688,221	102,041	1,790,262
31 August 2007	1,688,558	102,009	1,790,567
30 September 2007	1,689,659	102,121	1,791,780
31 October 2007	1,690,644	102,195	1,792,839
30 November 2007	1,691,452	102,197	1,793,649
31 December 2007	1,692,505	102,308	1,794,813

2005 rating lists

As at	*England*	*Wales*	*Number Total*
31 January 2008	1,693,265	102,437	1,795,702
29 February 2008	1,693,810	102,450	1,796,260
31 March 2008	1,694,145	102,521	1,796,666
30 April 2008	1,693,496	102,425	1,795,921
31 May 2008	1,693,214	102,435	1,795,649
30 June 2008	1,693,164	102,436	1,795,600
31 July 2008	1,694,113	102,536	1,796,649
31 August 2008	1,695,211	102,653	1,797,864
30 September 2008	1,697,022	102,839	1,799,861
31 October 2008	1,697,937	102,898	1,800,835
30 November 2008	1,698,789	103,030	1,801,819
31 December 2008	1,698,498	103,127	1,802,844

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage change there will be in *(a)* national non-domestic rate liability and *(b)* government grants to local authorities on average in April 2009. [262135]

John Healey: The multiplier used to calculate non-domestic rates liabilities will increase by 5 per cent. from April 2009 but individual authorities' circumstances will vary as a result of the number and value of reliefs granted.

The percentage change in overall government revenue grants to local authorities (those grants within Gross Aggregate External Finance which is made up of revenue support grant, national non-domestic rates and other specific grants) in England in 2009-10 will be 4.2 per cent.

Non-Domestic Rates: Business

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 20 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1277W, on non-domestic rates: business, whether the 2010 rates revaluation will be revenue-neutral *(a)* in the first year and *(b)* over the five year cycle. [261904]

John Healey: At the 2010 revaluation the small business multiplier will be reset to ensure the gross rates yield expected for 1 April 2010 (the first day of the 2010 rating list) will be the same, in real terms, as the gross rates yield expected for 31 March 2010 (the last day of the 2005 rating list). Therefore, the process of introducing new rateable values on 1 April 2010 will be revenue neutral in real terms. Thereafter, the rates yield may vary in the normal way with, for instance, ongoing changes to the rating list.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the percentage change in business rates for *(a)* small and *(b)* medium and large firms which will take effect in April 2009 in (i) England and (ii) the City of London. [261996]

John Healey: The small and standard business rate multipliers set to take effect in April 2009 in (i) England and (ii) the City of London are shown in the following table along with the annual increase in pence and percentage terms.

	2008-09	*2009-10*	*Increase (pence)*	*Percentage increase*
England				
Small Business Rate Multiplier	45.8	48.1	2.3	5.0
Standard Business Rate Multiplier	46.2	48.5	2.3	5.0
City of London				
Small Business Rate Multiplier	46.2	48.5	2.3	5.0
Standard Business Rate Multiplier	46.6	48.9	2.3	4.9

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether an impact assessment has been prepared in relation to the planned increase in levels of business rates from April 2009. [262447]

John Healey: Impact Assessments are not required where a predetermined formula, such as the rate of inflation, changes the rate of a tax.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her most recent estimate is of the net rise in aggregate rateable values as a consequence of the new system of rating ports for business rates. [262136]

John Healey: The aggregate effect (net increase) of the review of ports in England at 1 April 2005 (from an original starting point of £201 million rateable value) is currently estimated to be around £9.8 million rateable value.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what dates the retrospective bills to ports firms will be issued following the introduction of the new system of rating ports for business rates. [262137]

John Healey: There has been no new system of rating applied to ports. The review in ports applied the current system of rates for all non-domestic property to properties in ports which had previously been included in the Port Operator assessment or omitted from the rating list, but which were liable for separate rating.

Local authorities are responsible for billing and collection of rates from individual businesses. The Non-domestic Rating (Collection and Enforcement) (Local list) Regulations require that demand notices are sent as soon as praticable.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether port operators will receive retrospective refunds as a result of the backdating of lower rateable values. [262383]

John Healey: Local authorities are responsible for billing and collection of rates from individual businesses.

If the ratepayer has made an overpayment in respect of any liability, the local billing authority will make a refund if the rate payer requires, or can create a credit against subsequent liability.

Non-Domestic Rates: Valuation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many sub-locations there are in each billing authority in England outside Greater London. [261905]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 512W.

Planning Permission

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidelines are available for Ministers in her Department in respect of probity in planning. [263422]

Mr. Iain Wright: Ministers have the benefit of both the Cabinet Office 'Ministerial Code', which covers general principles regarding the conduct of their official duties, and more specific 'Guidance on Planning Propriety Issues' which is published on the CLG website. The planning propriety guidance is kept under regular review and was last updated in October 2008, mainly to reflect recent changes in arrangements for regional planning. The guidance covers ministerial decision making on all aspects of planning casework, including development plans, called-in planning applications and recovered appeals.

Private Rented Housing

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect on investment activity in the buy-to-let sector of the abolition of dividend tax credits on pension funds. [262605]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

The Treasury has made no such assessment. The decision in 1997 to abolish payable dividend tax credits was taken to remove a distortion in the tax system, which had encouraged companies to pay out their profits in dividends, rather than retain them for reinvestment in the business. The measure was part of a wider package of measures designed to improve the climate for long-term investment in the UK.

Mr. Arbuthnot: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the proposed timetable is for implementation of proposals arising from the review of the private rented housing sector. [263230]

Mr. Iain Wright: Following the publication of the Review of the Private Rented Sector on 23 October last year, we have been meeting with stakeholders and considering how to take forward the ideas raised. We propose to publish our initial response in the spring.

Publicity

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much the Audit Commission has spent on services procured from each of the external public relations and marketing companies included in the Central Office of Information's Public Relations Framework in the last 36 months; [262590]

(2) how much the Planning Inspectorate has spent on services procured from each of the external public relations and marketing companies included in the Central Office of Information's Public Relations Framework in the last 36 months; [262591]

(3) how much Ordnance Survey has spent on services procured from each of the external public relations and marketing companies included in the Central Office of Information's Public Relations Framework in the last 36 months; [262592]

(4) how much *(a)* the Housing Corporation, *(b)* English Partnerships, *(c)* Firebuy and *(d)* the Standards Board for England has spent on services procured from each of the external public relations and marketing companies included in the Central Office of Information's public relations framework in the last 36 months. [262658]

Mr. Khan: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I will ask the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member directly.

Planning Inspectorate, Ordnance Survey, Housing Corporation, English Partnerships, Firebuy and the Standards Board for England have not commissioned any work under the COI Public Relations Framework in the last 36 months.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 12 March 2009:

Parliamentary Question on how much the Audit Commission has spent on services procured from each of the external public relations and marketing companies included in the Central Office of Information's Public Relations Framework in the last 36 months.

Your above Parliamentary Question has been passed to me for reply.

Over the last 36 months the Audit Commission has spent £325,200 on services procured from the external public relations and marketing companies included in the Central Office of Information's Public Relations Framework. This expenditure was placed with three companies as detailed below:

	£
Consolidated Communications	137,700
Geronimo Communications	45,600
Fishburn Hedges	[1]41,900

[1] Committed expenditure not yet paid.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Regeneration

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the Answer of 15 July 2002, *Official Report*, column 63W, on Treasury, how much has been allocated to revive *(a)* coalfield communities, *(b)* steel communities, *(c)* rural communities, *(d)* inner-city communities and *(e)* seaside towns for the latest period for which figures are available. [263152]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 340W.

Regional Assemblies: Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding each regional assembly has given to regional health offices in Brussels. [262380]

John Healey: Regional assemblies have not provided any funding to regional health offices in Brussels.

Regional Ministers: Official Engagements

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the official engagements of *(a)* the Minister for London, *(b)* the Minister for Yorkshire and the Humber, *(c)* the Minister for the South East, *(d)* the Minister for the North West, *(e)* the Minister for the East of England, *(f)* the Minister for the East Midlands, *(g)* the Minister for the South West, *(h)* the Minister for the North East and *(i)* the Minister for the West Midlands in their roles as Regional Ministers were between 1 February 2009 and 28 February 2009; and how long each spent on each engagement. [262966]

Mr. Khan: I am depositing a table of this information in the Library. Accurate information on the length of time spent on each engagement can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Regional Planning and Development: South East

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 28 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 643W, on regional planning and development: South East, if she will place in the Library a copy of the submissions from *(a)* the hon. Member for Eastleigh (Chris Huhne) of 22 October 2008, *(b)* Eastleigh borough council of 23 October 2008 and *(c)* Eastleigh borough council of June 2006. [262599]

Mr. Khan: The documents requested have now been placed in the Library.

Right To Buy Scheme

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government *(1)* how many homes were sold under the provisions of right to buy in England in 2008; and what amount of capital receipts was received from such sales; [263024]

(2) what estimate she has made of the expected amount of capital receipts from sales of homes under right to buy provisions in *(a)* 2009 and *(b)* 2010. [263025]

Mr. Iain Wright: In the financial year 2007-08, there were 11,960 local authority right to buy (RTB) sales in England, with capital receipts of £934 million. There were also an additional 3,150 registered social landlord (RSL) preserved right to buy sales, with capital receipts of £197 million.

The Department has not estimated the value of receipts arising from RTB sales in 2009 and 2010.

Thames Gateway: Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department has allocated to the Thames Gateway in each year since 2005-06; and what the projected allocation is in each of the next three years. [262681]

Margaret Beckett: The following table sets out the CLG Thames Gateway programme expenditure or budget (excluding non-cash) for each year:

Programme capital and resource (cash only)

		£ million
Financial year	*Actual*	*Budget*
2005-06	163	—
2006-07	121	—
2007-08	175	—
2008-09	—	[1]122
2009-10	—	[1]174
2010-11	—	[1]174
2011-12	—	n/a

[1] Budgets include Thames Gateway project budget provision now managed by the Homes and Communities Agency on behalf of CLG.

Note:

2011-12 falls outside the CSR period and no budget has therefore been set at this stage.

Valuation Office: Rightmove

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Valuation Office Agency, or HM Revenue and Customs on its behalf, will pay to Rightmove.co.uk plc under the contract as extended in respect of *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [262607]

John Healey: Payments to third parties will be published in the Valuation Office Agency's report and accounts in due course.

Waste Disposal

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities *(a)* collect on request, *(b)* charge for the

collection of and *(c)* have not established a policy on the collection of clinical waste arising from the management of diabetes. [261396]

Jane Kennedy: I have been asked to reply.

DEFRA does not hold the information requested.

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many cases the local government ombudsman has ruled upon which relate directly to the issuing of fines by waste collection authorities for breaches of a local authority's waste collection rules in the last 12 months; on what dates such rulings were made; and to which waste collection authorities such rulings related. [262163]

John Healey: The local government ombudsman does not have a specific complaint category relating to the issuing of fines by waste collection authorities.

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 13 March 2009

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Departmental Buildings

Greg Clark: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* display energy certificates and *(b)* advisory reports for public buildings issued in respect of each property occupied by (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies. [256038]

Mr. McFadden: This Department will place in the Library a copy of the display energy certificates and their associated advisory reports in respect of each property occupied by this Department.

I have approached the chief executives of the Insolvency Service and Companies House and they will respond to the hon. Member directly.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 13 March 2009:

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has asked me to reply to you directly on behalf of The Insolvency Service in respect of your question (1096/2008) asking for display energy certificates and advisory reports to be placed in the House of Commons Library.

The Insolvency Service is placing a copy of these items in the Library in respect of each property occupied by the agency for which they are required.

Display Energy Certificates and advisory reports have been obtained for

Bloomsbury Street

Birmingham—Cannon House

Birmingham—Cobalt Square

Croydon

Leeds.

Letter from Tim Moss, dated 13 March 2009:

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your Parliamentary Question tabled on 5 February 2009, UIN 256038, to the Minister of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

As requested I have arranged for a copy of our Display Energy Certificate and the advisory report to be placed in the Library.

Departmental Data Protection

Anne Main: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what IT security strategy his Department has in place; what steps are being taken to ensure the policy is being followed; what policy is in place on the use of encryption when electronic data are sent externally; and what sanctions are in place for use should the policy not be followed. [259916]

Mr. McFadden: Information is a key asset to Government and its correct handling is vital to the delivery of public services and to the integrity of HMG. The Security Policy Framework, the Data Handling Report and the National Information Assurance Strategy produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic framework for protecting information that Government handle and put in place a set of mandatory measures which Departments must adhere to.

BERR is compliant with the security policies contained in the Government Security Policy Framework including those for information security and assurance.

Anne Main: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's IT security hierarchy. [259701]

Mr. McFadden: Information is a key asset to Government and its correct handling is vital to the delivery of public services and to the integrity of HMG. The Security Policy Framework, the Data Handling Report and the National Information Assurance Strategy produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic framework for protecting information that Government handle and put in place a set of mandatory measures which Departments must adhere to.

It is not in the interests of the security of the Department, or that of the public, to disclose detailed information pertaining to the hierarchy of IT security within the Department. Disclosing such information would enable criminals and those who would attempt to cause disruptive threats to the Department to deduce how to conduct attacks and therefore potentially enhance their capability to carry out such attacks.

Anne Main: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what scanning for vulnerabilities his Department conducts of each of its IT devices; what method is used for IT device scans; and how many vulnerabilities have been detected as a result of such scans in the last 12 months. [259702]

Mr. McFadden: Information is a key asset to Government and its correct handling is vital to the delivery of public services and to the integrity of HMG. The Security Policy Framework, the Data Handling Report and the National Information Assurance Strategy produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic framework for protecting information that Government handle and put in place a set of mandatory measures which Departments must adhere to.

It is not in the interest of the security of the Department, or that of the public, to disclose detailed information pertaining to electronic breaches of security of department's IT systems. Disclosing such information would enable criminals and those who would attempt to cause disruptive threats to the Department to deduce how to conduct attacks and therefore potentially enhance their capability to carry out such attacks.

Anne Main: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether his Department uses WPA2 encryption protocol on all its wireless networks. [259703]

Mr. McFadden: Information is a key asset to Government and its correct handling is vital to the delivery of public services and to the integrity of HMG. The Security Policy Framework, the Data Handling Report and the National Information Assurance Strategy produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic framework for protecting information that Government handle and put in place a set of mandatory measures which Departments must adhere to.

BERR is compliant with HMG IA Standard No 4 —Communication, Security and Cryptography for the encryption of data. BERR follows CESG guidance on the use of the Wi-Fi Protected Access 2 (WPA2) communications security protocols in order to protect wireless networks carrying protectively marked (up to RESTRICTED/IL3) traffic. The configuration and operation standards for WPA2 are set out in CESG's Infosec Manual Y, Use of WPA2 Wireless Security in Government Systems.

Anne Main: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what auditing his Department undertakes to ensure that IT security policies are being followed; and on how many occasions *(a)* IT security policies have been breached by employees and *(b)* a member of staff has been sanctioned for a breach of such policies in the last 12 months. [259704]

Mr. McFadden: Information is a key asset to Government and its correct handling is vital to the delivery of public services and to the integrity of HMG. The Security Policy Framework, the Data Handling Report and the National Information Assurance Strategy produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic framework for protecting information that government handles and put in place a set of mandatory measures which Departments must adhere to.

Compliance arrangements comprise a system of self assessment, accreditation, assurance reporting, audit and review.

In the last 12 months fewer than five staff have broken BERR IT security policies and have been sanctioned for the breach.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his Department's entertainment budget was in each year since its inception. [261272]

Mr. McFadden: This Department was formed in June 2007. In 2007-08, the budget for entertainment was £813,105. In 2008-09, the budget for entertainment is £749,442.

Departmental Official Visits

Anne Main: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Hammersmith and Fulham (Mr. Hands) of 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1311W, on departmental official visits, which agency deals with overnight accommodation for his Department; and how much has been paid to this agency since his Department was established. [260559]

Mr. McFadden: Expotel Hotel Reservations Ltd. deal with UK hotel accommodation on behalf of BERR.

Since BERR was established on 28 June 2007, the following hotel accommodation has been booked through Expotel:

28 June 2007 to 31 March 2008

6,772 nights at a total cost of £705,175.32.

1 April 2008 to 28 February 2009

8,790 nights at a total cost of £955,329.40.

BERR does not make a direct payment to Expotel. Expotel earn a commission from hotels for the bookings taken.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to the answer of 11 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1125W, on departmental training, what personal training courses at public expense other Ministers in his Department have undertaken since 1 January 2008. [251326]

Mr. McFadden: A junior Minister in BERR has undertaken training at public expense since 1 January 2008.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his Department's policy is on holding departmental away days outside his Department's buildings. [262029]

Mr. McFadden: There are no central rules governing the holding of departmental away days.

Away days are a useful development tool but as learning and development budgets are delegated to local units within BERR, it is up to those units to determine where they hold away days and for local budget holders to ensure value for money. This will depend on the nature and objectives of the away day and availability of departmental premises.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State plans to reply to the letters from the hon. Member for the Forest of Dean of 3 December 2008 and 13 January 2009 on the withholding of retention sums, reference FD7218. [260214]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 3 March 2009]:* I responded to the hon. Member on 1 March 2009.

Tourism: Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment he has made of the recommendations in the English Tourism Council's report Sea Change on seaside towns in England. [262993]

Barbara Follett: I have been asked to reply.

The English Tourism Council's report 'Sea Change' was published in 2001. I have made no recent assessment of the impact of that report on seaside towns, but it remains the case, as the report concluded, that seaside towns make a significant contribution to the cultural identity of England and contain some of the finest examples of our built heritage.

In a recent response to the Government Select Committee report, 'Coastal Towns', Government made clear the underlying principles that the visitor economy needs to be part of a wider agenda to regenerate and diversify the economies of coastal areas. The development of tourism has an important role to play but it is only one part of a bigger picture and it must also be linked with wider regeneration work in the region.

Last year my Department announced a programme called Sea Change, which will run for three years to 2011. It is intended to boost regeneration in coastal areas through investment in culture and heritage, and, giving £45 million in total, it will encourage new visitors to coastal areas and help support and enrich existing communities.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the Young People's Learning Agency will be able to direct academies on their *(a)* admissions, *(b)* curriculum, *(c)* behaviour policy and *(d)* pay arrangements. [262444]

Jim Knight: The academies clauses in the Apprenticeships, Children, Skills and Learning Bill give powers to the Secretary of State which will enable him to require the YPLA to carry out certain academies functions. But the Secretary of State can only ask the YPLA to exercise, on his behalf, powers which he has himself, either in law, or through academy funding agreements.

Funding agreements contain requirements and certain express direction powers in relation to admissions. The YPLA, on behalf of the Secretary of State, would consider complaints and objections which relate to funding agreement admissions requirements, and could take action to remedy any breaches. That could include, for example, requiring an academy to change its admission arrangements to achieve compliance with the funding agreement. In relation to the express powers of direction available to the Secretary of State, we are considering whether or not it would be appropriate to authorise the YPLA to use these powers, relating to admissions either with or without the Secretary of State's prior approval.

Funding agreements also contain curriculum requirements and cover the need to have in place a behaviour policy and pay arrangements. However, there are no specific direction powers in these areas. Behaviour policies and pay are areas where academies are free to adopt the arrangements which they believe will best support raising standards.

Departmental Public Appointments

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what information his Department holds on the number of persons appointed to executive positions in bodies for which his Department has responsibility who previously had careers in the banking industry. [261244]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: This information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Training

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department has provided voice coaching to any of its employees in the last 12 months. [260637]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Voice coach training is not part of the core training and development offering available to staff in the Department. However, local managers are able to book external courses based on identified need and value for money. A search of local records would result in disproportionate cost.

Domestic Violence: Curriculum

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will take steps to raise awareness of domestic violence and abuse issues among children through the national curriculum. [263019]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: We agree that schools have an important role in raising awareness of domestic violence and abuse issues by giving children and young people the knowledge and skills to not only deal with their own anger but anger and violence directed towards them. Through the non-statutory framework for Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education children and young people are taught a number of the skills pertaining to relationships with partners, friends and family, thus promoting harmonious relationships. In October 2008, we announced our intention to make PSHE statutory, in recognition of the key role it plays in equipping children and young people with the knowledge and skills they need to lead healthy and successful lives. At the same time we launched an independent review of how the principle that PSHE should have a statutory status can be translated into a practicable way forward. Sir Alasdair Macdonald, the head teacher of Morpeth School in Tower Hamlets, is leading the independent review and will report in April 2009. Proposals for the statutory implementation of PSHE education will be the subject of a full public consultation. Due to the time needed for full public consultation and parliamentary process, statutory PSHE is unlikely to come into effect before 2011.

The secondary curriculum also encourages schools to tackle social issues through cross-curricular links. For example, Citizenship teaches children and young people about legal and human rights and responsibilities underpinning society, basic aspects of the criminal justice system and the importance of resolving conflict fairly.

Headteachers: Pay

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many maintained schools paid their head teachers more than *(a)* £80,000, *(b)* £90,000, *(c)* £100,000, *(d)* £110,000 and *(e)* £120,000 in the latest year for which figures are available. [262327]

Jim Knight: The information available is not sufficiently reliable to provide the requested information for head teachers only.

The following table provides the number of local authority maintained school leadership teachers paid more than £80,000, £90,000, £100,000, £110,000 and £120,000 in March 2007 the latest information available.

Local authority maintained schools leadership[1] teachers by annual salary: March 2007[2] Coverage: England and Wales

	Number
£80,000 to £89,999	740
£90,000 to £99,999	290
£100,000 to £109,999	90
£110,000 to £119,999	20
Over £120,000	20
Total	1,160

[1] Includes head, deputy and assistant head teachers.
[2] Provisional.
Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Database of Teacher Records

Pupils

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of school pupils had *(a)* statemented, *(b)* non-statemented and *(c)* no special educational needs in each of the last five years. [262357]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information requested is given in the following table:

Statemented SEN pupils, non-statemented SEN pupils and pupils with no SEN as a proportion of all pupils in all schools[1, 2]—Position in January each year 2004-08: England

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Pupils on roll	8,334,880	8,274,470	8,215,690	8,149,180	8,102,190
(a) Pupils with SEN statements	247,590	242,580	236,750	229,110	223,610
Incidence (percentage)[3]	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.8
(b) Pupils with SEN without statements	1,197,490	1,230,800	1,293,250	1,333,430	1,390,670
Incidence (percentage)[4]	14.4	14.9	15.7	16.4	17.2
(c) Pupils with no SEN	6,889,800	6,801,090	6,685,690	6,586,640	6,487,910
Incidence (percentage)[5]	82.7	82.2	81.4	80.8	80.1

[1] Excluding dually registered pupils.
[2] Including general hospital schools but note that data for pupils with SEN without statements is not collected from these schools. Incidence rates are not significantly affected.
[3] Incidence of pupils—the number of pupils with statements expressed as a proportion of the number of pupils on roll.
[4] Incidence of pupils—the number of pupils with SEN without statements expressed as a proportion of pupils on roll.
[5] Incidence of pupils—the number of pupils with no SEN expressed as a proportion of pupils on roll.
Note:
Totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School census

Figures on SEN pupils with and without statements are taken from tables 1a and 1b of the Statistical First Release on Special Educational Needs in England: January 2008, accessible via the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000794/index.shtml.

Schools: Drugs

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will commission research on the effect of cannabis use on academic outcomes; and if he will make a statement. [263486]

Beverley Hughes: We are committed to tackling all of the harms associated with cannabis use, including poor school performance or disengagement from education. Although there is no specific research currently planned on the effects of cannabis use on academic outcomes, we will keep this under review as part of our work in relation to developing a cross-Government drugs research strategy. Through delivery of the National Drugs Strategy we will continue to drive the sustained fall in cannabis use amongst young people that we have experienced since 2001.

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what support is available from his Department to schools which wish to introduce voluntary drug testing; and if he will make a statement. [263487]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department's guidance, Drugs: Guidance for Schools (DFES 2004) makes it clear that head teachers can introduce voluntary drug testing if they consider that such an approach is appropriate. It is essential that before a school takes the decision to introduce drug testing that it considers very carefully all of the factors outlined in the guidance, including whether such action will result in appropriate support for pupils

most in need. In deciding whether to use this approach, schools are encouraged to consult with local partners, such as the police, who may be able to offer advice and support.

Secondary Education: Admissions

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many selective state secondary schools there are in *(a)* England, *(b)* Leicestershire and *(c)* Leicester East constituency. [262439]

Jim Knight: There are 164 local authority maintained secondary schools that select by ability in England. There are no such schools in the Leicestershire local authority area, nor in the Leicester East parliamentary constituency.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Business Growth Incentive Scheme

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of local authority business growth incentive scheme funding is not spent directly on assisting local businesses. [263414]

John Healey: Funding under the local authority business growth incentive scheme is paid as an unringfenced grant. Information about how the money is spent is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the supplementary memorandum from the Valuation Office Agency presented to the Treasury Select Committee, dated 29 October 2008, which amendments to the council tax valuation lists involving movements to a lower band were made in each billing authority in each of the years to March *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008. [262601]

John Healey: This information is currently being assembled for publication. I will place a copy in the Library of the House as soon as possible.

Housing: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she has given to local authorities on the calculation of baseline footprints for the Carbon Reduction Commitment. [262686]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

On Thursday 12 March the Government published a consultation on the Draft Order to implement the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC). As part of the consultation package of documents, DECC published a user guide which includes guidance on how scheme participants might calculate the emissions baseline.

The baseline year for CRC is 1 April 2010-31 March 2011. Prior to the baseline period commencing, the scheme administrators will publish detailed guidance on how scheme participants should calculate their emission baseline.

Local Government

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities operate under the committee system of executive governance. [262144]

John Healey: The Local Government Act 2000 allowed local authorities whose area had a population of less than 85,000 on 30 June 1999 to adopt a reformed, streamlined committee system of governance instead of adopting governance arrangements with an executive. We understand that the following councils currently operate such a system:

Council

Alnwick district council
Babergh district council
Barrow-in-Furness borough council
Berwick-upon-Tweed borough council
Brentwood borough council
Bridgnorth district council
Broadbourne borough council
Castle Morpeth borough council
Christchurch borough council
Corby borough council
Craven district council
Daventry district council
East Cambridgeshire district council
East Dorset district council
East Northamptonshire district council
Ellesmere Port and Neston borough council
Epsom and Ewell borough council
Forest Heath district council
Forest of Dean district council
Gosport borough council
Harlow district council
Kennet district council
Maldon district council
Malvern Hills district council
Melton borough council
Mid Suffolk district council
North Cornwall district council
North Warwickshire borough council
Oadby and Wigston borough council
Penwith district council
Purbeck district council
Ribble Valley borough council
Richmondshire district council
Runnymede borough council
Ryedale district council
Selby district council
South Derbyshire district council
South Shropshire district council
Tandridge district council
Teesdale district council.

Tewkesbury borough council
Torridge district council
Tynedale district council
Uttlesford district council
Wear Valley district council
Wellingborough borough council
West Lindsey district council
Weymouth and Portland borough council
West Devon borough council

We are aware that eight of these authorities are considering moving to executive arrangements.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what amount and proportion of central Government grant to local authorities comprised redistributed business rate revenue in each local authority area in the most recent year for which figures are available. [262166]

John Healey: Business rates are pooled centrally and the revenue contributes towards funding local government alongside other grants.

I have placed in the Library of the House a table showing the details of amounts from the national business rates pool, the amounts of other grant payments and the proportion of the total that each represents, in each local authority area for 2007-08.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what methodology is used to calculate performance reward grant; and how much funding her Department has allocated for distribution under the grant in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [262274]

John Healey: For Local Area Agreements (LAA) and Local Public Service Agreements (LPSAs) agreed prior to 2008 the total potential reward grant (if all targets are achieved) is equivalent to 2.5 per cent. of an authority's net budget requirement (the budget requirement plus dedicated schools grant less parish precepts) in the financial year prior to the start of the LAA or LPSA. In the case of two-tier areas, the net budget requirement of any district councils was also included in the calculation. Grants are paid as half revenue grant and half capital grant.

The proportion of the potential grant payable to any authority is determined by their performance in relation to the improvement targets agreed. Local authorities are currently submitting claims and £378 million is allocated to meet these claims in 2008-9. For 2009-10 a total of £257 million has been allocated. It is difficult to accurately predict in advance the exact funding levels required as this depends upon the final performance achieved in relation to each target.

Local Government Services: Children

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have adopted National Indicator 116. [263560]

John Healey: Forty-five of local authorities have set targets in their local area agreements against National Indicator 116—Proportion of Children in Poverty. Performance data against the indicator apply to all areas in England, not just those areas that have a target.

The full list of local authorities across England that adopted this and other National Indicators is available on the Improvement and Development Agency for local government (IDeA) website:

http://www.idea.gov.uk

Non-Domestic Rates

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 20 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1277W, on non-domestic rates, in what circumstances and in respect of which types of property automated analytical techniques were used by the Valuation Office Agency in its preparatory work for the 2010 revaluation. [262668]

John Healey: Automated techniques have been used to inform the analysis of rents of industrial property in a limited number of local authority areas.

All final valuations will be produced by VOA staff.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the letter from P&O Ferries to the Minister for Local Government on retrospective port taxes. [262381]

John Healey: The letter contains information supplied to me on a confidential basis, and I am not therefore in a position to release it publicly.

Non-Domestic Rates: Small Businesses

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of small businesses eligible to claim small business rate relief which do not do so. [262596]

John Healey: Data on the number of businesses who are eligible for small business rate relief and do not claim as at 31 December 2008 are currently being collected and will be available later this year.

Regeneration

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what financial corrections the European Commission has imposed on the UK in respect of financial irregularities in the administration of regeneration programmes. [262678]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 315W. Details are given in the Communities and Local Government resource accounts 2007-08 (HC791).

Regional Development Agencies: Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the value for money of the contributions made by her Department to the budgets of the regional development agencies. [262319]

John Healey: The Department for Communities and Local Government's contribution to the budgets of the Regional Development Agencies is covered by audits and performance assessments of RDAs. Annual audits are carried out by the National Audit Office for those RDAs outside of London and by the Audit commission for the London Development Agency. The Government have commissioned PricewaterhouseCoopers to conduct an independent evaluation of the economic impact of RDAs and will publish results from the evaluation shortly.

Regional Planning and Development

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 73-6WS, on departmental expenditure limits, which financial corrections to old European Regional Development Fund programmes the new provisions will cover. [262693]

John Healey: The departmental expenditure limits stated in the written ministerial statement of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 74WS, para. 4(c), cover financial corrections relating to 97-99 closure audits in the NW and NE.

Regional Planning and Development: EC Action

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 73-6WS, on departmental expenditure limits, to which programme areas the provision for bad debts on old European Regional Development Fund programmes relates. [262587]

John Healey: In the Spring Supplementary Estimate 2008-09, the Department sought non-cash provision of £8,000,000 to cover potential write-offs in respect of European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) programmes from the 1994-99 and 2000-06 programme rounds.

Rented Housing: Greater London

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* guideline and *(b)* actual rent increase in each local authority in Greater London was in each of the last five years. [262553]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following tables set out the guideline rent increases for each local authority in London for the years 2004-05 to 2008-09.

Information on actual rent increases applied by London local authorities is not readily available.

	Guideline rent pd 2004-05 (£)	*Guideline rent pd 2005-06 (£)*	*Cash change (£)*	*Percentage change*	*Guideline rent pd 2006-07 (£)*	*Cash change (£)*	*Percentage change*
London							
Barnet	61.74	65.22	3.48	5.64	70.49	5.27	8.08
Brent	62.20	66.25	4.05	6.51	72.13	5.88	8.88
Camden	62.69	67.10	4.42	7.04	72.88	5.77	8.61
City of London	61.07	64.89	3.82	6.26	69.76	4.86	7.49
Croydon	62.43	65.60	3.17	5.08	70.71	5.11	7.79
Ealing	60.54	63.82	3.28	5.41	68.66	4.84	7.58
Enfield	59.65	62.77	3.12	5.24	67.77	5.00	7.96
Greenwich	57.79	60.94	3.15	5.46	66.24	5.30	8.70
Hackney	57.79	59.62	1.83	3.18	65.13	5.51	9.24
Haringey	62.14	65.94	3.80	6.11	70.97	5.04	7.64
Harrow	65.36	68.41	3.04	4.66	73.51	5.10	7.46
Havering	55.91	58.44	2.53	4.52	64.15	5.72	9.79
Hounslow	59.17	62.50	3.33	5.63	67.80	5.30	8.48
Islington	63.78	67.44	3.66	5.74	73.01	5.56	8.25
Lambeth	61.31	61.74	0.43	0.70	68.07	6.34	10.26
Lewisham	55.94	57.88	1.94	3.46	63.59	5.72	9.88
Merton	56.07	62.64	6.56	11.70	68.84	6.20	9.90
Newham	56.48	57.82	1.34	2.37	62.91	5.09	8.81
Redbridge	60.20	64.26	4.06	6.74	68.28	4.03	6.27
Southwark	59.92	63.50	3.58	5.97	69.05	5.55	8.75
Sutton	59.22	63.18	3.96	6.68	68.37	5.19	8.22
Tower Hamlets	59.21	63.16	3.95	6.66	69.12	5.96	9.44
Waltham Forest	59.01	60.91	1.91	3.23	66.45	5.53	9.09
Wandsworth	65.70	70.75	5.05	7.68	77.01	6.26	8.85
Westminster	68.62	73.21	4.59	6.69	79.19	5.97	8.16

	Guideline rent pd 2007-08 (£)	Cash change (£)	Percentage change	Guideline rent pd 2008-09 (£)	Cash change (£)	Percentage change
London						
Barnet	77.77	7.28	10.32	79.42	1.65	2.12
Brent	79.80	7.67	10.64	81.82	2.01	2.52
Camden	83.22	10.34	14.18	85.50	2.29	2.75
City of London	77.88	8.12	11.64	79.70	1.82	2.34
Croydon	77.79	7.08	10.01	79.39	1.61	2.07
Ealing	76.84	8.18	11.91	77.52	0.68	0.89
Enfield	74.46	6.69	9.88	75.97	1.50	2.02
Greenwich	73.31	7.06	10.66	75.05	1.75	2.38
Hackney	71.88	6.75	10.36	73.53	1.64	2.29
Haringey	77.68	6.70	9.45	79.26	1.58	2.04
Harrow	80.89	7.37	10.03	82.56	1.68	2.07
Havering	70.52	6.36	9.92	71.94	1.42	2.01
Hounslow	75.00	7.20	10.61	76.70	1.70	2.27
Islington	81.75	8.74	11.97	83.76	2.01	2.46
Lambeth	76.00	7.92	11.64	78.10	2.10	2.77
Lewisham	70.53	6.94	10.91	72.04	1.51	2.14
Merton	76.21	7.37	10.70	78.08	1.87	2.46
Newham	69.56	6.65	10.56	71.15	1.59	2.29
Redbridge	75.13	6.84	10.02	76.69	1.56	2.08
Southwark	76.87	7.82	11.32	78.72	1.85	2.40
Sutton	75.76	7.38	10.80	77.65	1.89	2.50
Tower Hamlets	77.20	8.07	11.68	79.47	2.27	2.94
Waltham Forest	73.11	6.66	10.02	74.83	1.72	2.35
Wandsworth	87.21	10.20	13.24	89.49	2.28	2.61
Westminster	88.18	9.00	11.36	90.34	2.16	2.45

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Film: Government Assistance

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how the Government plan to further support the British film industry. [262915]

Barbara Follett: The Government's principal support for the UK film industry is through the film tax relief which encourages the sustainable production of culturally British films. Figures from HM Revenue and Customs tell us this provided £104 million to the industry between January 2007 and March 2008.

The Government continue to support the British film industry through the UK Film Council. The Film Council is the Government's strategic agency for film and invests grant in aid and lottery money in developing new filmmakers, in funding exciting new British films and in getting a wider choice of films to audiences throughout the UK. The Film Council also invests in training, promoting Britain as an international filmmaking location and in raising the profile of British films abroad.

We are in continual dialogue with the Film Council about potential new methods and ways to improve current schemes to support the industry and to help filmmakers deliver the box office and awards successes we have seen recently.

The Public Service Broadcasters, the BBC and Channel 4, also contribute support to the industry through their film divisions.

National Lottery

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was received by each of the national lottery good causes in each year since 1995, expressed in 2008-09 prices. [263539]

Barbara Follett: The table shows the total income for each of the national lottery good causes for each financial year since 1995. Figures are adjusted to 2007-08 prices, using GDP deflators for the most recent year available from the Treasury. All figures are rounded to the nearest £000.

The sport good cause comprises the following Lottery Distributing Bodies: UK Sport, Sport England, Sport Northern Ireland, Sports Council Wales and Sport Scotland. The arts good cause comprises Arts Council England, Arts Council Wales, Arts Council Northern Ireland, Scottish Screen, UK Film Council and Scottish Arts Council. The millennium good cause comprises the Millennium Commission, which was dissolved in 2006-07. The heritage good cause comprises the Heritage Lottery Fund. The health, education, environment and charitable expenditure good cause comprises the Big Lottery Fund, which is the successor to the Community Fund and the New Opportunities Fund.

	Amount adjusted to 2007-08 prices (£000)
Sport	
1995-96	414,449,000
1996-97	412,903,000
1997-98	461,478,000

	Amount adjusted to 2007-08 prices (£000)
1998-99	376,564,000
1999-2000	336,684,000
2000-01	354,988,000
2001-02	355,436,000
2002-03	294,489,000
2003-04	252,162,000
2004-05	258,795,000
2005-06	258,242,000
2006-07	219,656,000
2007-08	217,040,000
The Arts	
1995-96	414,307,000
1996-97	410,549,000
1997-98	449,106,000
1998-99	350,408,000
1999-2000	322,940,000
2000-01	333,917,000
2001-02	344,006,000
2002-03	288,519,000
2003-04	251,233,000
2004-05	257,352,000
2005-06	256,301,000
2006-07	216,497,000
2007-08	214,523,000
Millennium	
1995-96	415,414,000
1996-97	418,542,000
1997-98	505,854,000
1998-99	487,632,000
1999-2000	431,085,000
2000-01	412,032,000
2001-02	164,547,000
2002-03	24,396,000
2003-04	7,140,000
2004-05	6,568,000
2005-06	4,162,000
2006-07	1,651,000
2007-08	—
Heritage	
1995-96	413,487,000
1996-97	412,764,000
1997-98	464,612,000
1998-99	385,851,000
1999-2000	355,982,000
2000-01	380,591,000
2001-02	377,282,000
2002-03	331,955,000
2003-04	273,268,000
2004-05	287,588,000
2005-06	285,886,000
2006-07	238,112,000
2007-08	217,043,000
Health, education, the environment and charitable expenditure	
1995-96	415,122,000
1996-97	412,853,000
1997-98	596,000,000
1998-99	783,272,000
1999-2000	670,433,000
2000-01	640,705,000
2001-02	895,866,000
2002-03	870,631,000
2003-04	755,864,000
2004-05	774,797,000
2005-06	770,942,000
2006-07	648,155,000
2007-08	651,124,000

DEFENCE

Defence Intelligence Staff: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff the Defence Intelligence Staff employed in each year since 1997, broken down by *(a)* civilian staff and *(b)* service; and what the projected numbers for the next five years are. [257680]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Member to my answer on 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1528W. I should point out that the answer contained an error for April 2007. The correct figure is provided in the following table.

The breakdown of DIS staff numbers for the years since April 2006 is as follows:

	2006-07	2007-08	2008
Military	2,696	2,609	2,577
Civilian	1,724	1,699	1,788
Total	4,420	4,308	4,365

The projected figures for the next five years are:

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Military	2,798	2,842	2,873	2,860	2,860
Civilian	1,874	1,880	1,823	1,820	1,820
Total	4,672	4,722	4,696	4,680	4,680

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been claimed in reimbursable expenses by special advisers in his Department in 2008-09 to date. [260352]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Costs incurred on reimbursable expenses in 2008-09, will be available only when the Department's resource accounts are fully audited and laid before Parliament. This is expected to be before the 2009 summer recess.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what payments for *(a)* polling and *(b)* other services his Department has made to (i) Deborah Mattinson and (ii) Opinion Leader Research Limited since 31 December 2007; and if he will make a statement. [261059]

Mr. Kevan Jones: No payments have been made centrally by the MOD to either Deborah Mattinson or Opinion Leader Research Limited since December 2007.

Central payments represent some 95 per cent. of the departmental total and exclude only those payments made (a) on behalf of other Government Departments or by other Government Departments on the MOD's behalf, (b) by the MOD's trading funds (which lie outside the MOD's accounting boundary), (c) locally by the Department, or (d) in relation to collaborative projects where the payments are made through international procurement agencies or overseas Governments.

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much expenditure was incurred in respect of overseas visits which *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers in his Department and *(c)* his Department's senior officials undertook in 2008. [262184]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Since 1999, the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the financial year 2007-08 was published on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 102WS, and for the first time, included details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. The information is also available at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/media/cabinetoffice/propriety_and_ethics/assets/travel_2007_2008.pdf

The information for the financial year 2008-09 will be published as soon as possible after the end of the financial year. All travel by Ministers is undertaken in accordance with the "Ministerial Code".

The expenditure incurred in respect of overseas visits by senior officials is made in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code and the requirement to make efficient and cost-effective travel arrangements. However, the details for 2008 could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

Ex-servicemen: Mental Health Services

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will provide psychological screening for those who have served in the armed forces *(a)* one year and *(b)* five years after discharge; and if he will make a statement. [261047]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Health care for veterans is the responsibility of the health departments and NHS and the 2009 NHS Operating Framework includes a section on veterans' services. NHS services such as screening are not decided centrally but commissioned in line with local needs and priorities. MOD, DOH and the third sector are working together to raise awareness of military issues among civilian health professionals and administrators and NHS-led veterans' mental health services providing best practice assessment and treatment in an accessible acceptable way are being piloted at sites across the country. These pilots will run for two years with independent evaluation and analysis. Lessons learned will inform future service planning. For those veterans with mental health problems living outside pilot areas and who have served in operations since 1982, the Medical Assessment Programme at St. Thomas's hospital, London, provides a mental health assessment by an expert in the problems that arise from military service. Treatment recommendations are then made to the GP.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many units of *(a)* blood platelets and *(b)* blood plasma transported to Iraq for use by the armed forces were destroyed because they were past their use-by date in each year since 2003; and if he will make a statement. [262568]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Records held by the MOD reflect the difference between the amount of blood supplied to operations and the amount transfused. From August 2007 to the end of February 2009, the difference between the amount of blood supplied to Iraq and the amount transfused was 396 units of blood platelets and five units of fresh frozen plasma. Each unit contains approximately 300 ml. There are a number of reasons for this difference, for example expiration of the use-by date, damage in transit or accidental exposure to high temperature.

Prior to August 2007, information was not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Northern Ireland Security Guard Service

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 192W, on the Northern Ireland Security Guard Service, what progress has been made on the review of the Northern Ireland Security Guard Service; and when he expects the review to be completed. [263042]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Northern Ireland Security Guard Service (NISGS) are MOD employees and are a professional, armed and trained body who provide security at MOD establishments in Northern Ireland. The NISGS review was initiated in order to examine the structure and responsibilities of the NISGS as part of the normalisation process. It was neither designed as a review into NISGS capability nor as a security review. It was divided into two parts: Part 1 examined the establishment (numbers) of the NISGS to support the reducing number of military bases and examine their roles and responsibilities; Part 2 was to determine future requirements including the retention of special constable (SC) status.

The paper has been staffed through the chain of command and the review is in its final stage. The decision on removal or retention of SC status is pending until consultation with trade unions is complete and resource implications are fully addressed.

We expected the review to be completed by the end of 2008 but this deadline was internal and self-imposed by HQ NI and 38 (Irish) Brigade. The review was more

complex than originally anticipated with a broad range of subject matter experts' views to be sought. Further work was therefore directed to ensure all resource implications and advice had been properly addressed. The report date was therefore slipped to the end of March 2009, with the full knowledge of both the MOD and trade unions. Trade union consultation on the findings of the review will commence shortly, before promulgation of the outcome to NISGS personnel.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Members: Correspondence

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to reply to the correspondence from the hon. Member for Buckingham of 20 October 2008, on grants for home insulation. [262732]

Joan Ruddock: I signed a reply to the hon. Member on 9 March and apologise for the delay, which was due to departmental re-organisation.

Warm Front Scheme: Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much was paid in Warm Front grants to residents in West Lancashire constituency in 2007-08. [261976]

Joan Ruddock: Warm Front grants to residents in West Lancashire totalled £1,333,018.45 in 2007-08.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Land

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what area of farmland in England was classified as *(a)* grade 1 (excellent), *(b)* grade 2 (very good), *(c)* grade 3a (good), *(d)* grade 3b (moderate), *(e)* grade 4 (poor) and *(f)* grade 5 (very poor) in each of the last 10 years. [262116]

Jane Kennedy: No estimates for the area of farmland in England by land grade classification have been made. Figures for Wales fall under the jurisdiction of the devolved authority.

Recycling: Glass

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to allow licensed premises to use municipal bottle banks to dispose of glass bottles. [262620]

Jane Kennedy: There are no plans to do so, however, where an agreement has been made between the waste generator and the local authority or site operator, then such commercial use of a site is permitted.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Council: Finance

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1413W, on terrorism: finance, how much the British Council plans to spend *(a)* in each country and *(b)* on each type of project in each of the three years from 2008-09 to 2010-11. [262406]

Caroline Flint: The British Council, received £6 million funding, over three years, for their Reconnect programme. The main aim of the initiative is to train 10,000 overseas young leaders at most risk of radicalisation or extremism. Decisions on particular funding allocations for countries or projects are based on a number of factors including the priority the Foreign and Commonwealth Office accords a particular country as well as the quality of particular project proposals. This programme will be monitored regularly to ensure it remains on track and will be evaluated on completion. The British Council has ongoing professional evaluation in place for all its programmes.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 10 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1845W, on departmental training, when the audit of skills in his Department is expected to be completed. [258145]

David Miliband: We have identified and defined the core skills needed to deliver the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)'s departmental strategic objectives, and existing levels of proficiency. We are also defining specialist skills which reflect the work of the FCO across its network. As part of this process we mapped skills required against roles within the organisation. The next step will be to record the skills we have throughout our work force. This will be an ongoing process which will help inform decisions on learning and development, recruitment and workforce planning.

I am placing in the Library of the House information on our skills work. The documents set out our core skills, which are compatible with Professional Skills for Government, and details and explanations of levels of proficiency. The documents also give details of the mapping exercise which identified skills within the organisation and contributed to the development of the core skills framework.

EU Globalisation Fund

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many applications have been made by the UK to the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund since 2007; what the purpose was of each such application; and how much has been paid out in respect of each such application. [258915]

Caroline Flint: The UK has made no applications to the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund since 2007.

Iran: Arms Trade

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of breaches of the prohibition in UN Security Council Resolution 1747 against the sale, transfer or supply of arms or related material from Iran; and if he will make a statement. [261001]

David Miliband: I am aware of reports that Iran has breached UN Security Council Resolution 1747 by attempting to transfer arms-related material via the MV Monchegorsk, a Cypriot-flagged vessel.

We understand that the MV Monchegorsk was ordered into Limassol harbour by the Government of Cyprus in late January, where it now remains. Cypriot Foreign Minister Marcos Kyprianou has said that the Monchegorsk was in "clear" breach of UN sanctions banning Iran from exporting arms and related material. Cyprus has dealt with the situation effectively and entirely in line with UN and EU requirements.

We continue to urge Iran to comply with international law. It is unacceptable that Iran acts in breach of UN Resolutions and such action only serves to further undermine international confidence in Iran.

Somalia: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to seek agreement on the extension of the mandate of the African Union Mission in Somalia beyond 19 March 2009. [253956]

David Miliband: The UK supports the mandate given to the African Union (AU) Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) by the UN, most recently through UN Security Council Resolution 1863. This resolution provides a mandate to AMISOM until 16 July 2009, as well as providing for a package of support to that mission. The AU's own mandate for this mission is a matter for AU member states themselves, but the UK has encouraged these states to extend this mandate beyond 19 March 2009, including by my noble Friend Lord Malloch-Brown at the AU Summit on 1-2 February 2009. The UK is also supporting the implementation of AMISOM's mandate financially, with a contribution of £10 million during this financial year toward the costs of the mission. We also intend to contribute to the UN trust fund and logistical support package for AMISOM authorised under resolution 1863.

Tibet: Politics and Government

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of the implementation by the Chinese Government of security measures in connection with the 50th anniversary of the Tibetan uprising. [263621]

Bill Rammell: We have received several reports of increased security measures in Tibet, including significant increases in numbers of People's Armed Police and People's Liberation Army forces into Tibetan areas, severely restricting Tibetans' right of freedom of expression.

We have also received claims from several sources that the so-called 'Strike Hard' campaign launched in January 2009 has in fact been used for political purposes, rather than its stated aim of cracking down on criminal activity. We are concerned at such reports, and continue to urge the Chinese authorities to respect the right of peaceful expression and assembly in Tibet.

HEALTH

Cannabis: Research

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has conducted recent research into the addictive properties of cannabis; and if he will make a statement. [263489]

Dawn Primarolo: At the request of my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary, the Government's advisory committee on drugs, the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) carried out a substantial review last year of the harms associated with cannabis use, including the physical and psychological effects of cannabis. The report, "Cannabis: Classification and Public Health (2008)", was published in May 2008 and copies have already been placed in the Library.

Christmas

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether it is his Department's policy to offer staff *(a)* additional leave entitlement for Christmas shopping and *(b)* Christmas bonus payments. [262812]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not offer its staff either additional leave entitlement for Christmas shopping or Christmas bonus payments.

Staff can request an advance on December salary—up to £500 for full-time staff (pro-rated for part-time staff)—to help them budget over the Christmas period. This advance is paid with November salary and recovered in full from December salary.

Cord Blood

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the recommendations of the report on cord blood banking in the UK—an international comparison of policy and practice; [262773]

(2) what plans he has for the involvement of *(a)* Government bodies, *(b)* the third sector and *(c)* the private sector in his Department's consideration of the collection and use of cord blood. [262776]

Dawn Primarolo: Following the publication of the international comparison report on cord blood banking policy and practice, the Department is assessing the need to enhance national health service cord blood collection services to ensure the United Kingdom remains at the forefront of this work and able to meet its international obligations in matching stem cell donations to patients in need of a transplant.

The two largest UK bodies providing stem cells for unrelated transplant, NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) and the Anthony Nolan Trust, have been asked to report back to us by the end of March 2009. There are no plans to involve other organisations at this time.

Departmental Car Allowances

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department issues on the mileage allowance payable to *(a)* district nurses and *(b)* other NHS staff. [263559]

Ann Keen: Guidance on mileage allowances for Agenda for Change Staff, which includes district nurses, is set out at Section 17 of the Agenda for Change terms and conditions of service handbook. The mileage allowances are set out at Annex L of this handbook. These allowances were last increased on 1 July 2008 in Pay Circular (A for C) 4/2008 issued on 7 July 2008. A copy of the Pay Circular has been placed in the Library.

Unless specified in individual terms and conditions, very senior managers follow this Agenda for Change guidance

Guidance for hospital medical and dental staff and doctors and dentists in public health, the community health service and salaried primary dental care (England) is set out in Pay Circular (M and D) 5/2008 issued on 4 August 2008. A copy of the Pay Circular has been placed in the Library.

Changes to all these national allowances are published in pay circulars issued by NHS employers and are available, along with the Agenda for Change terms and conditions of service handbook, at:

www.nhsemployers.org/Pages/home.aspx

Departmental Internet

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) of 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1353-56W, on the departmental internet, how many hits each of his Department's websites received in each of the last 12 months. [262837]

Mr. Bradshaw: Page hits for the main departmental websites are detailed as follows.

Page hits for the Department's website:

www.dh.gov.uk

March 2008 to February 2009—64,678,663

	Number of visits	*Page impressions*
February 2009	1,361,442	5,642,052
January 2009	1,507,257	6,205,364
December 2008	1,041,753	4,403,460
November 2008	1,278,086	5,578,886
October 2008	1,257,254	5,555,268
September 2008	1,126,097	4,717,921
August 2008	859,571	3,647,145
July 2008	1,226,589	5,122,615
June 2008	1,389,120	5,883,074
May 2008	1,316,806	5,842,608
April 2008	1,402,508	6,474,523
March 2008	1,191,293	5,605,747

Page hits for:

www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk

March 2008 to February 2009—1,756,641

	Number of visits	*Page impressions*
February 2009	44,594	133,699
January 2009	47,567	143,423
December 2008	52,483	156,840
November 2008	61,437	181,291
October 2008	65,873	190,170
September 2008	47,812	133,031
August 2008	43,895	126,039
July 2008	55,151	137,455
June 2008	68,211	147,110
May 2008	80,641	145,979
April 2008	79,440	138,647
March 2008	65,210	122,957

Page hits for:

www.nhs.uk

March 2008 to February 2009—199,738,205

	Number of visits	*Page impressions*
February 2009	5,730,784	28,675,990
January 2009	5,653,486	28,419,522
December 2008	4,057,157	19,962,397
November 2008	4,243,219	22,078,113
October 2008	3,118,019	14,362,161
September 2008	2,636,926	12,982,408
August 2008	2,566,666	13,004,201
July 2008	2,834,392	14,488,807
June 2008	2,522,515	12,837,873
May 2008	2,239,637	11,122,658
April 2008	2,053,826	11,436,278
March 2008	1,927,864	10,367,797

Notes:

Explanation of terms

Visits: the number of times a visitor has entered a website within a given timescale. Thus, multiple visits are recorded.

Page impressions: also known as 'hits', this is when a website page is displayed on a visitor's browser.

To provide page hits for the other websites listed in the 4 February answer would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Lost Property

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what property has been lost or stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what the estimated cost was of replacement of such property. [263110]

Mr. Bradshaw: From 1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008, the following items of departmental property were reported as lost or stolen with an estimated total replacement cost of £40,000.

	Number
Laptop computers	37
Mobile phones	19
Blackberry handheld devices	18
Projectors	3
Audio conferencing phone	1
Other miscellaneous equipment	8

There are strict rules on data security that the Department is required to adhere to. Safeguards include the encryption of all electronic equipment including memory sticks and PDAs and the Department is confident that no personal data have been compromised.

Drugs

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's definition of addiction is. [263490]

Dawn Primarolo: In relation to substance misuse, following World Health Organization (WHO) recommendations, the term 'addiction' has been replaced by 'dependence'.

The WHO International Classification of Diseases (ICD)-10 clinical defines 'dependence' as:

"A cluster of physiological, behavioural, and cognitive phenomena in which the use of a substance or a class of substances takes on a much higher priority for a given individual than other behaviours that once had greater value. A central descriptive characteristic of the dependence syndrome is the desire (often strong, sometimes overpowering) to take psychoactive drugs (which may or may not have been medically prescribed), alcohol, or tobacco. There may be evidence that return to substance use after a period of abstinence leads to a more rapid reappearance of other features of the syndrome than occurs with nondependent individuals."

'Addiction' can also be understood to refer to some patterns of compulsive behaviour not involving substance misuse, but there is no ICD-10 definition encompassing this meaning.

Eating Disorders

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Government plan to increase the number of consultants specialising in the treatment of eating disorders. [262922]

Phil Hope: It is for local national health service employers to recruit their own staff to best meet the health care needs of their local population.

Hospitals: Transport

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* NHS hospital trusts contract with bus operators to run dedicated bus services to hospitals within their areas. [263044]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not held centrally.

The hon. Member may wish to approach his local national health service organisations for further information.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average hospital waiting time for each specialty was for each acute hospital trust in England in each quarter since 2007. [260430]

Mr. Bradshaw: The median referral to treatment waiting times by treatment function for each national health service acute trust in each month for which figures are available since 2007 are shown in the document, "Median by month acute trusts", which shows data for each organisation as they were submitted to the Department in the relevant year, has been placed in the Library.

Nationally, the median referral to treatment time waited of patients who were admitted for treatment has come down from 18.8 weeks when data were first collected in March 2007 to 7.6 weeks in December 2008. Nationally, the median referral to treatment time waited for non-admitted patients was 4.1 weeks in December 2008, compared to 7.4 weeks in August 2007 when data were first collected.

NHS Treatment Centres: Private Sector

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the future financial position of independent sector treatment centres. [262977]

Mr. Bradshaw: No research has been commissioned to date on the future financial position of independent sector treatment centres.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the *(a)* renegotiation and *(b)* renewal of independent sector treatment centre (ISTC) contracts issued in the (i) first and (ii) second wave of the ISTC programme; and what involvement he expects (A) primary care trusts, (B) strategic health authorities and (C) other bodies to have in discussions on such contracts. [262978]

Mr. Bradshaw: Plans for the management of contract expiry including independent sector treatment centre wave 1 contracts are being developed. Consideration of Phase 2 has not begun, as the contracts will expire between 2011 and 2017. Decisions will be taken based on local service need and value for money. All of this will be considered as part of the process.

Primary care trusts as commissioners and strategic health authorities will have an important role in taking this work forward. No other bodies are currently involved.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost liabilities expected to arise from the independent sector treatment programme in the next five years. [262981]

Mr. Bradshaw: The total cost liability associated with the treatment of national health service patients arising from the independent sector treatment programme (ISTC) over the next five years is estimated to be £1,412 million. (This is the expected payment to ISTC Wave 1 and Phase 2 providers based on the contracted value of activity for the next five years from 1 April 2009).

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to bring into the NHS independent sector treatment centre (ISTC) facilities contracted in the *(a)* first and *(b)* second wave of the ISTC programme. [262982]

Mr. Bradshaw: There are no plans to bring national health service independent sector treatment centre (ISTC) facilities into the NHS at this stage. The ISTC providers are part of NHS capacity.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue funding has been provided for the measurement of health outcomes in the NHS since the National

Programme for IT was first proposed; and what percentage of the NHS IT budget for 2008-09 has been allocated for this purpose. [263133]

Mr. Bradshaw: Measuring health outcomes and using that information to improve services is integral to the delivery of effective health care. For example, cancer registry data are used in the planning and delivery of services, and also on a wider scale for the development of national policy on public health interventions and for the prioritisation of research. The National Programme for IT infrastructure provides a vehicle for collecting, sharing and storing health outcomes data, among many other applications.

The specific information requested is not available as a separately identifiable reporting line within overall national health service expenditure.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue expenditure has been incurred on the implementation of picture archiving and communication systems in England since the National Programme for IT was first proposed. [263134]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 117-18W.

NHS: Standards

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for which routine surgical operations information on outcomes is collected in the NHS; and whether his Department proposes to introduce further outcome measurement in other routine surgical operations. [260362]

Mr. Bradshaw: There is no standard definition of 'routine surgical operations'. The national health service collects information on surgical operations from a range of data sources, for example:

(i) There are limited clinical audit outcomes data on surgery for cancer (lung, head and neck, bowel, oesophago-gastric, mastectomy and breast re-construction), and heart disease (cardiac and paediatric surgery). Reports on these have been placed in the Library.

(ii) Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) is the national statistical records-based system for England for the care provided by NHS hospitals and for NHS hospital patients treated elsewhere. Each HES record—one for each period of care—contains clinical information about diagnoses and operation. There is no nationally agreed definition of 'main procedure and intervention'. Each episode in HES has 24 procedure and intervention fields. The 'main procedure and intervention' should be the one that is the most resource intensive. Procedure and interventions are recorded using the latest version of the Office of Population, Censuses and Surveys: Classification of Interventions and Procedures, 4th Revision, OPCS-4.4 for 2008-09, and a copy of this has been placed in the Library.

The National Centre for Health Outcomes Development (NCHOD) has linked HES data with Office for National Statistics deaths data to develop indicators on deaths within 30-days of a coronary artery bypass graft and within 30-days of surgery for non-elective admissions (excluding diagnostic procedures and spells with cancer).

(iii) Patient Reported Outcome Measures—From 1 April 2009 all providers of NHS-funded care who are subject to the terms of the Standard NHS contract for acute services will be obliged to invite patients undergoing hip and knee replacements, groin hernia and varicose vein surgeries to complete patient reported outcome measures (PROMs) questionnaires.

The Department is actively exploring extending the use of PROMs into other clinical areas including long-term conditions. Any future decision to extend the use of PROMs will be based on a sound evidence base.

The Department is aware of a number of examples where local providers and regional networks are involved in other data collection exercises, including local PROMs collection, although there is no central register of these activities.

"High Quality Care for All" stressed quality as the organising principle of the NHS and the need for this to be supported by measurement. Therefore, the Department set out the vision for developing quality indicators across patient safety, effectiveness and patient experience including outcomes of care, PROMs and surgical outcomes, and using these to improve the quality of services in the NHS. This is described in "Measuring for Quality Improvement (MQI)—The Approach". A copy of this document has been placed in the Library.

Prostate Cancer

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps the NHS Screening Programme will take to inform GPs about the prostate cancer risk management programme; [263371]

(2) when he expects the revised prostate cancer risk management programme to be published; [263372]

(3) what plans he has to *(a)* monitor and *(b)* evaluate the use of the revised prostate cancer risk management programme by GPs. [263373]

Ann Keen: A comprehensive strategy has been developed to inform general practitioners (GPs) of the revised prostate cancer risk management programme (PCRMP) when it is relaunched in summer 2009. This includes:

a medical press launch;

proactive educational programmes;

development of a slide set;

a road show using the slide set, co-ordinated by the British Association of Urological Surgeons;

a web cast;

making the PCRMP materials available on GP information technology systems;

a peer reviewed paper in a peer reviewed journal; and

a British Medical Journal e-learning module.

The Cancer Research UK Primary Care Education Research Group will undertake a detailed evaluation of the use and effectiveness of the revised PCRMP packs, as they did with the original packs.

Schizophrenia

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many community treatment orders have been issued for patients suffering from paranoid schizophrenia since 3 November 2008. [263236]

Phil Hope: The information requested is not available.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 184W, on schizophrenia, which severe and enduring conditions are sufficient to make it inappropriate to allow a mental health patient a choice over his treatment. [263238]

Phil Hope: Each mental health service user should have an opportunity to be actively involved in agreeing their treatment plans wherever possible. This is not dependent on diagnosis, but may be affected by the severity of the condition at any particular time.

Suffolk Primary Care Trust: Consultants

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the Eastern Region Strategic Health Authority on Suffolk Primary Care Trust's understatement of spending on management consultants. [262737]

Phil Hope: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has had no discussions with the East of England strategic health authority on Suffolk primary care trust's understatement of spending on management consultants.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Identity Cards: Marketing

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of the national identity scheme 2008-09 budget is allocated for publicity and promotional purposes. [261289]

Mr. Malik: IPS has budgeted to spend approximately 0.25 per cent. of the 2008-09 budget for the national identity scheme for publicity and advertising.

Written Questions: Government Responses

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 28 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 2776W, on ministerial duties, when she plans to write to the hon. Member for Hornchurch with a substantive response; and what the reason is for the time taken to provide the information requested. [261498]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to the hon. Member on 12 March. My Department makes every effort to answer all Members correspondence within a reasonable time scale. However, this is not always possible.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Departmental Data Protection

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether his Department uses WPA2 encryption protocol on all its wireless networks. [259812]

Mr. Simon: Information is a key asset to Government and its correct handling is vital to the delivery of public services and to the integrity of HMG. The Security Policy Framework, the Data Handling Report and the National Information Assurance Strategy produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic framework for protecting information that Government handle and put in place a set of mandatory measures which Departments must adhere to.

It is not in the interest of the security of the Department, or that of the public, to disclose detailed information pertaining to the specific technical measures employed to protect our networks (wireless or other). Disclosing such information would enable criminals and those who would attempt to cause disruptive threats to the Department to deduce how to conduct attacks and therefore potentially enhance their capability to carry out such attacks.

The Department follows CESG guidance on the use of the Wi-Fi Protected Access 2 (WPA2) communications security protocols in order to protect wireless networks carrying protectively marked (up to RESTRICTED/IL3) traffic. The configuration and operation standards for WPA2 are set out in CESG's Infosec Manual Y, Use of WPA2 Wireless Security in Government Systems. The Department also complies with HMG IA Standard No 4—Communication, Security and Cryptography for the encryption of data.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's IT security hierarchy; [259814]

(2) what scanning for vulnerabilities his Department conducts of each of its IT devices; what method is used for IT device scans; and how many vulnerabilities have been detected as a result of such scans in the last 12 months. [259815]

Mr. Simon: Information is a key asset to Government and its correct handling is vital to the delivery of public services and to the integrity of HMG. The Security Policy Framework, the Data Handling Report and the National Information Assurance Strategy produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic framework for protecting information that Government handle and put in place a set of mandatory measures which Departments must adhere to.

It is not in the interest of the security of the Department, or that of the public, to disclose detailed information pertaining to electronic breaches of security of Department's IT systems. Disclosing such information would enable criminals and those who would attempt to cause disruptive threats to the Department to deduce how to conduct attacks and therefore potentially enhance their capability to carry out such attacks.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what IT security policy his Department has; what procedures are in place to ensure the policy is being followed; what his Department's policy is on encryption of data when it leaves departmental premises; and what sanctions are in place for failure to comply with this policy. [259811]

Mr. Simon: Information is a key asset to Government and its correct handling is vital to the delivery of public services and to the integrity of HMG. The Security Policy Framework, the Data Handling Report and the National Information Assurance Strategy produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic framework for protecting information that Government handle and put in place a set of mandatory measures which Departments must adhere to.

The Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills is compliant with the security policies contained in the Government Security Policy Framework including those for information security and assurance.

Depending upon the circumstances, a range of sanctions are available including disciplinary or administrative action, and in extreme or persistent cases, termination of employment/services and, if appropriate, criminal proceedings.

Departmental Lost Property

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what property has been lost or stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what the estimated cost was of replacement of such property. [263124]

Mr. Simon: According to our records, the following items have been lost or stolen in the last 12 months.

17 security tokens lost, of which one was subsequently recovered, estimated cost of £1,120

Two Laptops stolen, of which one was subsequently recovered, estimated cost of £1,400

Two Blackberry devices stolen, estimated cost of £400

Three Blackberry devices lost, one of which was subsequently recovered estimated cost of £400

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department spent on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* food since its inception. [264169]

Mr. Simon: The Department records details of expenditure on food aggregated with wider costs for events such as conferences and meetings or with general entertainment expenses, as well as being included in individual subsistence claims. Where there is a spend on alcohol, this is also aggregated with costs for conferences and meetings. Consequently, the information requested is available only at disproportionate cost.

All expenditure incurred, including that on food and alcohol, is in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

In particular, there is a presumption that public money will not be used to purchase alcohol. However, exceptionally, if not providing alcohol to non-civil servants could lead to greater embarrassment for the Department, moderate amounts (in quantity and quality) may be purchased for formal gatherings such as meals or presentations. As with any expenditure on personal entertainment, the reasons are required to be justified.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his Department's entertainment budget has been since its inception. [264282]

Mr. Simon: The Department does not have a specific budget for entertainment. In respect of expenditure, the Department records details of expenditure on entertainment aggregated with costs for events such as conferences and meetings as well as being included in some individual subsistence claims. Consequently, the information requested is available only at disproportionate cost.

All expenditure incurred is in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what percentage of letters sent by his Department were given to *(a)* the Royal Mail and *(b)* another postal services provider for delivery in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [259968]

Mr. Simon: The Department's postal services are provided through the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR), the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Research Councils, which manage the buildings that DIUS occupies. None of these organisations separates mail sent by DIUS from its own mail, so information on the number of items of mail sent by DIUS is not held.

Royal Mail has been the sole postal service provider for all office locations in the last 12 months.

Postgraduate Education

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of people who obtained postgraduate qualifications in each of the last 10 years were in each socio-economic grouping at the time they started their postgraduate course. [263411]

Mr. Lammy: Information on the socio-economic group of postgraduate students is not held centrally. Socio-economic group information is held for full-time undergraduate students, as it is collected as part of the UCAS application process. Postgraduates apply directly to institutions, rather than through UCAS, so this information is not collected.

Skilled Workers: Rural Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills whether he has made an assessment of the skills base in seaside towns in England compared to the national average. [262996]

Mr. Simon: The Department for Communities and Local Government published 'England's Seaside Towns—a Benchmarking Study' in November 2008. The report presents a range of statistical evidence on socio-economic conditions including skills and qualifications in seaside towns and compares figures with regional and English averages.

The Department for Innovation, Universities, and Skills is represented on the cross-Government working group which commissioned this report. A copy of the report has been placed in the House Libraries.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Colombia: Overseas Aid

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much has been spent on aid to Colombia in each year since 1999. [262582]

Mr. Michael Foster: Details on Official Development Assistance (ODA) can be found on the OECD Development Assistance Committee's (DAC) website at:

www.oecd.org/dac/stats/idsonline.

The relevant figures are reproduced below.

Total ODA (in millions) to Columbia (All donors), USD$ constant prices (2007)

	Total ODA to Columbia
1999	301.97
2000	186.51
2001	380.12
2002	439.72
2003	801.07
2004	518.38
2005	624.59
2006	987.44
2007	730.83

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much expenditure was incurred in respect of overseas visits which *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers in his Department and *(c)* his Department's senior officials undertook in 2008. [262177]

Mr. Thomas: Since 1999, the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the financial year 2007-08 was published on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 102WS and for the first time, included details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All travel by Ministers is undertaken in accordance with the ministerial code.

Private Sector

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the terms of reference are of his Department's review of its policy on working with the private sector; and if he will make a statement. [262260]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development's (DFID) Private Sector Development Strategy was launched in January 2009 and is available on the DFID website at:

www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/Private-Sector-development-strategy.pdf

No review is currently under way.

Terrorism: Finance

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1413W, on terrorism: finance, how much of the £300 million to be contributed by his Department to tackling terrorism and promoting understanding overseas for the period 2008-09 to 2010-11 is funding additional to previously allocated expenditure; [262402]

(2) how much of the £300 million his Department plans to spend on tackling terrorism and promoting understanding overseas will be spent *(a)* in each country and *(b)* on each type of project in each year from 2008-09 to 2010-11; [262403]

(3) how he plans to assess the effectiveness of his Department's expenditure to tackle terrorism and promote understanding overseas. [262408]

Mr. Thomas: Pursuant to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's answer of 3 March 2009 highlighting expenditure to tackle radicalisation and promote understanding overseas, £300 million represents the portion of the Department for International Development's (DFID) budget that will be spent on poverty reduction programmes that help to address the development-related causes of radicalisation.

The £300 million (over the period 2008-11) will be spent in Pakistan (£131 million), Bangladesh (£67 million), Somalia (£7 million), Kenya (£17 million), Sudan (£19 million), Yemen (£37 million), Afghanistan (£19 million), and Iraq (£1 million). These figures are subject to revision based on modifications to DFID's country assistance programmes.

The programmes in these countries will help to build Government institutions that are more efficient and accountable to their people, promote good governance and the rule of law, education reform and skills provision, access to equitable and affordable justice and police reform. These programmes will contribute to counter-radicalisation objectives by addressing the underlying social, political and economic grievances that can bring some communities to support violent extremism.

Zimbabwe: Overseas Aid

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Zimbabwe. [262442]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development's (DFID) programme in Zimbabwe is focused on providing immediate humanitarian support and broader livelihoods assistance to meet the essential needs of the people of Zimbabwe. This year we have provided: £9 million to the World Food programme for food aid; £10 million to support the growing season; and £10 million to HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment. We also recently made £10 million available to tackle the cholera outbreak and support life-saving essential health systems. We anticipate a total spend of £49 million this financial year across these vital areas of support. Our aid is channelled through the UN and NGOs and not the Government of Zimbabwe.

We anticipate the need for sustained large-scale humanitarian support from the international community for the foreseeable future and we are monitoring the situation very closely. However, a sustainable and credible political solution is required to fully address Zimbabwe's problems. In principle, we are ready to support economic

and social recovery in Zimbabwe but this will depend on the new Government's commitment to reform, including a clear commitment to macroeconomic stabilisation and sound economic management; restoration of the rule of law; commitment to democracy; respect for human rights, and the guarantee of full humanitarian access.

JUSTICE

Departmental Bank Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with which banks his Department has or has had contracts for the provision of financial advice, for the financial year 2008-09. [262763]

Maria Eagle: For the financial year 2008-09, the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) have held contracts with banks for the provision of banking operational services only, and not for the provision of financial advice.

All MOJ Banking transactions are completed in line with the MOJ Banking and Cash Handling policies that have been drawn up in accordance with HM Treasury guidelines.

Under section 18 of the Exchequer and Audit Departments Act 1866, the Treasury determines the banks at which public monies can be kept. Public monies are held centrally by the Exchequer to the maximum possible extent consistent with value for money principles.

Legal Opinion

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department and its predecessors spent on external legal advice in each of the last five years. [257636]

Maria Eagle: The accounting systems in the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and the Office of Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR) do not separately distinguish expenditure on external legal expenses from other types of legal expenditure. This information can be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, OCJR has been able to determine that expenditure on external legal advice in 2007-08 was £64,304.71.

For activities relating to the former Department of Constitutional Affairs (comprising the core department and its agencies, HM Courts Service, Tribunal Service and Office of the Public Guardian) accounting records indicate that expenditure over the last five years on external legal services was as follows:

	£
2004-05	1,827,261
2005-06	968,636
2006-07	1,914,155
2007-08	2,297,148
2008-09 (to 31 December 2008)	1,537,176

Expenditure on external legal services includes all use of counsel and solicitors in private practice and excludes advice from in house legal advisers or Treasury Solicitors.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effect of (i) Criminal Defence Service Direct and (ii) the Defence Solicitor Call Centre on the numbers and proportion of suspects who received legal advice from a legal adviser in person; and if he will place in the Library a copy of that research. [262822]

Mr. Malik: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) and the Ministry of Justice have not commissioned specific research on the effect of CDS Direct or the DSCC on the number and proportion of suspects who receive legal advice in person, but the LSC continues to record the number of cases funded each year. In 2007-08, there were 602,000 (574,000) cases in which publicly funded legal advice was provided in person at a police station and 94,000 (48,000) cases in which telephone advice was provided by an individual solicitor or firm. In addition, in 2007-08 CDS Direct dealt with 78,000 (123,000) telephone advice cases. Final figures will not be available until after the financial year ends, but the figures in brackets represent cases for the 2008-09 period up to February 2009.

The Defence Solicitor Call Centre handles all requests for legal advice from police stations and refers them, as appropriate, to either the duty solicitor, the detainee's own solicitor if they have one, or to Criminal Defence Service (CDS) Direct.

CDS Direct is a separate service which provides telephone advice to individuals detained at police stations in England and Wales in relation to one of a small group of specified offences such as drink driving. These are relatively less serious, non-imprisonable offences that do not normally require the police to interview the suspect and therefore telephone advice is considered to be appropriate and cost-effective. In February and April 2008 the service was expanded in two phases to handle all cases appropriate for telephone advice, including those where the detainee has named a particular solicitor or firm. Even prior to the expansion of CDS Direct, if a named solicitor provided advice directly to a client on a case involving this group of offences, that solicitor would receive a fee from public funds for telephone advice only. The expansion of CDS Direct in early 2008 has not increased the scope of publicly funded telephone advice or reduced entitlement to face to face advice.

Michael Shields

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to take a decision in relation to whether to grant a pardon for Michael Shields; and if he will make a statement. [263412]

Maria Eagle: On 17 December the High Court decided that my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor could consider an application from Mr. Shields for a free pardon and he immediately appointed senior counsel to advise him. On counsel's advice he asked the Merseyside police to look at certain matters arising on Mr. Shields' application.

My right hon. Friend is determined to make the best and fairest decision that he can, but he can do so only after properly assessing all of the material that is available and his consideration needs to be thorough. Regrettably he does not anticipate that it will be possible to make a decision before the end of May at the earliest.

National Offender Management Service: Temporary Employment

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been spent by the National Offender Management Service on *(a)* agency and *(b)* temporary staff in each financial year since its inception. [259774]

Mr. Straw: NOMS expenditure on agency and temporary staff is shown in the following table. Owing to the way data is recorded on accounting systems it is not possible to show a split between agency staff and temporary staff. Within NOMS centre and HMPS staff on short-term employment contracts are not included as their costs are included in overall salary account codes. For Probation—NPS—both agency staff and temporary staff are within the figures shown in the table. It would not be possible to split these figures without asking for work to be carried out at each business unit within the NOMS agency, which would incur disproportionate costs.

£

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
NOMS	2,159,550	3,542,483	5,428,550	5,932,227
NPS	12,025,000	19,764,000	14,565,000	15,476,000
HMPS	45,883,000	30,999,000	25,028,000	21,461,000
Total	60,067,550	54,305,483	45,021,550	42,869,227

Offensive Weapons: Mentally Disturbed Offenders

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people convicted of knife crimes have been admitted to a mental health institution in each of the last five years. [263132]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

This information is not held centrally.

Police Custody

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were held in police cells in each police force area in each month in the last three years; and at what cost. [262466]

Mr. Straw: Operation Safeguard was activated in mid-October 2006 and ended just before Christmas 2006. It was then re-activated between 16 January 2007 and 31 October 2008. Police cells have not been used since 22 September 2008 and no police cells have been on stand by since the end of October 2008.

The following tables detail usage by police force area between October 2006 and 31 October 2008 and gives the aggregated total of the number of prisoner nights in which a police cell was used. It is not possible to ascertain how many individual prisoners these totals cover.

Invoices to the value of £14,373,500 were paid for the activation of Operation Safeguard in the 2006-07 financial year, £50,687,200 for the 2007-08 financial year and £10,790,000 for the 2008-09 financial year (up to 31 December 2008).

	2006			2007											
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Avon and Somerset	—	—	—	24	1	32	6	20	6	1	6	6	11	9	0
Bedfordshire	—	—	—	6	0	52	51	73	60	0	3	56	55	43	15
Cambridgeshire	32	118	62	23	17	132	94	174	173	0	82	195	183	155	34
Cheshire	—	32	71	85	105	288	117	506	562	37	321	754	935	706	21
Cleveland	—	—	—	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cumbria	—	—	—	0	3	36	25	77	78	0	0	7	77	48	0
Derbyshire	15	52	46	51	14	137	45	19	24	2	42	38	43	30	9
Devon and Cornwall	—	12	26	84	10	194	131	376	314	36	167	241	209	197	36
Dorset	3	38	30	26	7	66	52	85	92	0	10	1	0	40	1
Durham	—	11	31	24	9	73	58	216	189	6	120	188	204	134	5
Dyfed Powys	—	—	1	34	4	99	118	186	120	0	5	2	114	0	0
Essex	199	423	387	107	196	452	406	538	563	62	332	541	538	448	204
Gloucestershire	—	—	—	7	0	4	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
GMP	—	—	15	96	109	381	163	504	597	69	163	184	417	446	47
Gwent	—	—	—	17	0	18	2	14	38	38	160	225	240	191	19
Hampshire	—	—	65	70	31	220	77	50	226	37	183	283	221	210	27
Hertfordshire	—	—	40	26	27	89	90	184	140	11	125	201	175	115	33
Humberside	—	—		30	1	18	11	8	13	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kent	85	58	192	56	177	385	362	467	428	116	359	383	410	382	129
Lancashire	—	—	—	54	36	175	143	296	244	23	88	189	312	220	22
Leicestershire	—	—	—	0	6	1	151	379	542	64	334	491	460	366	176
Lincolnshire	27	109	32	71	32	233	81	204	263	0	26	246	251	135	27
Merseyside	—	111	85	3	0	51	3	40	24	0	4	32	7	6	0
MET	—	67	266	199	293	1061	902	1294	1622	73	947	1221	1320	1108	700
Norfolk	—	—	—	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	7	3	5	1	0
North Wales	8	6	—	30	11	144	121	467	379	0	0	0	385	243	5

	2006			2007										
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
North Yorkshire	—	—	—	3	0	3	3	10	7	0	2	2	2	6	1
Northamptonshire	32	118	69	68	21	241	122	249	254	0	3	53	108	78	35
Northumbria	—	—	—	36	46	193	63	254	216	0	3	55	228	148	0
Nottinghamshire	—	—	—	50	3	22	23	60	5	0	6	12	6	1	0
South Wales	14	52	15	47	9	110	67	281	237	19	123	128	112	244	28
South Yorkshire	—	—	—	8	0	27	27	202	221	0	54	122	190	135	29
Staffordshire	—	—	—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Suffolk	27	56	—	29	3	134	112	182	203	0	8	132	190	141	37
Surrey	—	—	—	33	0	10	14	20	11	0	3	16	0	0	0
Sussex	62	152	124	16	0	14	24	47	55	0	23	28	46	9	0
TVP	81	172	180	129	36	363	246	479	328	39	214	282	319	233	59
Warwickshire	12	46	35	30	1	125	49	138	158	2	70	200	175	189	54
West Mercia	—	—	—	14	0	6	4	8	5	25	1	0	0	0	0
West Midlands	30	235	305	155	62	755	330	1104	950	110	617	885	1044	827	120
West Yorkshire	—	—	45	188	16	337	165	396	578	40	328	518	567	448	91
Wiltshire	—	—	—	8	0	2	37	22	6	0	10	0	6	0	0
Total	627	1868	2122	1942	1286	6683	4498	9631	9845	810	4950	7840	9565	7693	1960

	2008									
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Total
Avon and Somerset	10	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	157
Bedfordshire	3	66	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	496
Cambridgeshire	39	193	40	19	0	21	61	41	0	1888
Cheshire	147	846	80	0	15	65	169	236	0	6098
Cleveland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Cumbria	15	74	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	440
Derbyshire	33	256	34	0	0	0	15	3	0	908
Devon and Cornwall	44	210	41	0	0	15	46	65	11	2465
Dorset	6	64	4	0	0	1	17	14	3	560
Durham	15	242	13	0	14	0	51	42	0	1645
Dyfed Powys	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	683
Essex	92	200	146	10	4	23	92	68	10	6041
Gloucestershire	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
GMP	13	555	43	0	0	0	0	0	0	3712
Gwent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	962
Hampshire	55	220	56	0	0	6	42	94	2	2095
Hertfordshire	53	206	57	0	0	0	40	39	0	1651
Humberside	4	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	111
Kent	179	431	260	74	4	0	0	0	0	4937
Lancashire	0	153	21	0	0	0	36	53	0	2065
Leicestershire	21	379	64	0	6	22	136	79	16	3693
Lincolnshire	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1739
Merseyside	7	34	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	409
MET	628	1340	777	162	77	299	776	290	74	15496
Norfolk	1	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32
North Wales	0	339	32	0	0	5	0	77	0	2252
North Yorkshire	6	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	59
Northamptonshire	43	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1494
Northumbria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1242
Nottinghamshire	5	25	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	222
South Wales	38	337	50	0	0	53	102	135	0	2197
South Yorkshire	6	147	26	0	0	0	3	12	0	1209
Staffordshire	0	50	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	60
Suffolk	42	176	43	1	0	12	34	51	10	1623
Surrey	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	116
Sussex	10	73	0	0	0	0	83	46	11	823
TVP	87	368	81	24	0	22	64	42	0	3848

	2008									
	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Total*
Warwickshire	100	324	50	0	0	61	85	199	74	2177
West Mercia	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	64
West Midlands	32	596	0	0	0	16	182	113	0	8468
West Yorkshire	26	613	61	0	0	7	147	94	0	4065
Wiltshire	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	97
Total	1766	8605	2004	290	120	630	2182	1793	211	88921

Prisons

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been convicted of offences related to bringing prohibited *(a)* List A, *(b)* List B and *(c)* List C articles into (i) prisons and (ii) young offender institutions in each of the last 12 months. [262824]

Mr. Hanson: Offences relating to bringing prohibited articles into prisons and young offender institutions form part of the 2007 Offender Management Act which came into force in April 2008.

The data for 2008 will be available in November 2009, answers therefore should be based on published National Statistics in order to ensure quality checks have been carried out, also statistics on court proceedings and cautions should be published annually. It takes several months for court proceedings data to be received by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform, validated and corrected.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill 2007-08

Mr. Amess: To ask the Leader of the House if she will place in the Library a copy of the parliamentary handling strategy for the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill of Session 2007-08; and if she will make a statement. [263252]

Chris Bryant: Information relating to the proceedings of Cabinet Committees, including Cabinet Committee papers, is generally not disclosed, as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

Members: Allowances

Mr. Drew: To ask the Leader of the House if she will take steps to ensure that the principles on expenses espoused in the Green Book are applied throughout the public service. [263522]

Chris Bryant: The principles set out in the Green Book are derived from the principles in the Code of Conduct for Members of Parliament. These are in turn based on the principles of conduct identified by the Committee on Standards in Public Life in its First Report (Cm 2850) as applying to holders of public office.

PRIME MINISTER

Cabinet

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what plans he has to hold Cabinet meetings outside London in the future; [258129]

(2) what proportion of the cost of the Cabinet meeting in Liverpool on 8 January 2009 was attributable to *(a)* transport, *(b)* policing, *(c)* catering and *(d)* additional costs. [258149]

The Prime Minister: The visit of the Cabinet to Liverpool on 8 January 2009 was linked with a large number of ministerial visits across the region; there was a public engagement event with around 170 people and a formal Cabinet meeting. The cost of the public engagement event and the cabinet meeting was approximately £76,620, excluding VAT. The figure includes the cost of hiring the venue, catering, associated security and delegate management. There are no separate figures for the Cabinet meeting. In addition, Departments and agencies will have incurred costs in terms of travel, staff time and other support. The cost of any security provided by the police is a matter for the relevant police force.

Further such visits are planned for the future; announcements of these will be made at the appropriate time.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Baron: To ask the Prime Minister (1) how much has been spent on *(a)* maintaining, *(b)* decorating and *(c)* otherwise improving No. 10 Downing Street since July 2007; [248048]

(2) much has been spent on *(a)* maintaining, *(b)* decorating and *(c)* otherwise improving his Office's buildings in the last five years; how much has been spent on wallpaper since 2001; and what plans there are for further spending on such decoration. [248065]

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Prime Minister how much was spent on the refurbishment and maintenance of *(a)* Downing Street offices and *(b)* the 10 and 11 Downing Street flats in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08. [250320]

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister how much his Department spent on works and refurbishment to offices allocated to Ministers at Nos. 10 and 12 Downing Street in each month since July 2007. [253661]

The Prime Minister: The Downing street estate is undergoing essential maintenance work required to maintain it to the standards appropriate to its Grade 1/2 listed status required by English Heritage.

The total resource expenditure for maintaining the entire Downing street estate for the financial year 2007-08 was £1.288 million. This includes the exceptional resource cost of £810,664, which has already been published, for essential work to the exterior of the Downing street estate again in consultation with English Heritage. Resource spend includes maintenance of fixed assets, the fabric of the building, floors, walls and ceilings and the upkeep and repair of heritage assets.

Information on capital expenditure on improving Cabinet Office buildings, including the Downing street estate for 2007-08 is included in the annual Cabinet Office Resource Accounts. Copies are available in the Library of the House. Capital works included railings alterations, ICT cabling installation and alteration, Front Hall renovation, Cabinet Room redecoration, infrastructure work such as new risers for ICT cabling, repair of collapsed drain, installation of new Building Management System and energy monitoring equipment, access improvements works, such as corridor ramping and dropped kerbs in Downing street and security works.

As part of the resource spend, the cost of routine maintenance on the flat above No. 11 Downing street for the most recent financial years is set out as follows:

	£
2005-06	35,293
2006-07	14,832
2007-08	28,150

Expenditure on other official residences is a matter for the relevant Department. Information for previous years is a matter of public record and can be found in the official report.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister how many and what percentage of letters sent by his Office were given to *(a)* the Royal Mail and *(b)* another postal services provider for delivery in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [259981]

The Prime Minister: The information requested is not held centrally. Letters are sent by my Office in the most cost effective manner. This includes the use of the Government Internal Delivery System and the Royal Mail as appropriate.

Diplomatic Service

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1198W, on the diplomatic service, on how many occasions he has appointed a special representative or special envoy to a particular region since 1997. [261921]

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1198W, on the Diplomatic Service, (1) how many *(a)* special representatives and *(b)* special envoys he and his predecessor have appointed to a country or region since 1997; and how many of those appointees are still in post; [263046]

(2) from which budget the funding for special representatives and special envoys appointed by him to particular countries and regions is drawn. [263047]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave on 23 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 553-4W. Information for previous years is a matter of public record and can be found in the *Official Report*.

Group of Twenty

Mr. Hands: To ask the Prime Minister (1) with which overseas Heads of State he plans to have bilateral meetings during the G20 Summit in London in April 2009; [258888]

(2) whether he has invited any foreign heads of state to No. 10 Downing Street in April 2009; [258925]

(3) which foreign heads of state and government have signified their intention *(a)* to attend and *(b)* not to attend the G20 summit in April 2009. [259368]

The Prime Minister: Details of those who have been invited to the G20 summit in April are available on the London summit website:

http://www.londonsummit.gov.uk/en/media-centre/latest-news/?view=News&id=13821294

A copy of this webpage has been placed in the Library of the House.

TRANSPORT

Civil Service Agencies

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what role is played by his Department in the setting of budgets for each of its Executive agencies. [263384]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Of the Department's seven Executive agencies, four are designated as Trading Funds and are therefore funded primarily through fees. For the remaining agencies, Department officials provide a sponsorship role in reviewing and challenging agency plans in light of the funding available to the Department and to adjust the plans where necessary.

Each of the Department's Executive agencies then completes a Business Plan that is published before the commencement of each financial year setting out the direction for the agency's activities and the resources required to deliver them. Department officials also review these Business Plans to ensure that they include the Department's policy requirements and to align the plans with delivery of the Department's own objectives. The plans are then subject to agreement with Ministers.

Diesel Trains

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions his Department had with the rolling stock companies on procurement in advance of his decision to create Diesel Trains Limited. [263618]

Paul Clark: We are in regular dialogue with the rolling stock companies. Officials discussed the proposal to create Diesel Trains Limited with each of the rolling stock companies prior to the company's incorporation on 25 February.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for how many years Diesel Trains Limited is expected to be publicly-owned. [263619]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport will be inviting the market to bid either for the company or for the assets and related contracts within it, and to take on the ownership and leasing of the trains. We wish to commence this process as soon as reasonably practicable.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had on the merits of Diesel Trains Limited being used to procure rolling stock in addition to the 120 diesel multiple units currently planned. [263620]

Paul Clark: Diesel Trains Limited has been incorporated to purchase 202 diesel multiple unit vehicles. It is not anticipated at this time that the company will purchase other rolling stock.

Driving Tests: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people *(a)* took and *(b)* passed their driving test in (i) Hemel Hempstead and (ii) Hertfordshire in each of the last five years. [263059]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There are no driving test centres within Hemel Hempstead. Data for car and motorcycle practical tests in Hertfordshire are shown in the following table.

Hertfordshire

	Conducted	*Passed*	*Percentage Pass*
Car			
2007-08	42,123	18,825	44.7
2006-07	38,994	17,546	45.0
2005-06	35,845	15,828	44.2
2004-05	29,757	13,209	44.4
2003-04	22,361	10,429	46.6
Motorcycle			
2007-08	1,163	750	64.5
2006-07	1,215	794	65.3
2005-06	1,461	896	61.3
2004-05	1,420	865	60.9
2003-04	1,318	873	66.2

Practical tests for lorry and bus driving categories are not conducted at test centres within Hertfordshire.

Driving: Disqualification

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people have been disqualified from driving *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each local authority area in each year since 1997; and what the reasons for disqualification were. [262497]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Although the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency records details of driving convictions on its driving licence records, it does not have available a statistical breakdown of the numbers of licence holders who have been disqualified from driving.

Heathrow Airport

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what risk registers *(a)* are in use and *(b)* have been in use in the last two years within his Department's Aviation Directorate in relation to projects regarding Heathrow Airport; and if he will make a statement. [258764]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 25 February 2009]:* The Department's Aviation Directorate makes regular use of risk registers to monitor strategic projects, as well as non-strategic projects and business as usual activities relating to regulatory issues, airport capacity and operations, aviation and the environment, and aviation safety. In line with this, risks relating to Heathrow airport were reported to the Heathrow Project Board until October 2007 and to the Aviation Programme Board thereafter.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons he plans to withdraw from public scrutiny responses to the Adding Capacity at Heathrow consultation on 10 April 2009. [262943]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport has no plans to withdraw from public scrutiny the responses to the Adding Capacity at Heathrow consultation. The complete set of nearly 70,000 responses has been made available for inspection in the Department until 10 April and we consider this to be a reasonable period to provide this facility. After 10 April, the Department will allow interested parties to view named responses on request.

Heathrow Airport: Public Consultation

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department collated any summaries of the responses to the consultation document, Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport in addition to the work carried out by Ipsos MORI/ Detica. [262449]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In addition to the response analysis undertaken by Detica, the Department for Transport carried out some supplementary analysis of the responses from stakeholders listed in Appendix D2 to the Detica report. This was subject to scrutiny by the independent peer reviewer whose report is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/heathrowconsultations/heathrowdecision/

Lorries: Licensing

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions his Department has had with its Executive agencies on setting testing fees for goods vehicles, their drivers and operators. [263383]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) is responsible for setting and administering testing fees for goods vehicles and their operators while the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) is responsible for setting the fees for the testing of goods vehicle drivers.

Since VOSA and DSA are established as a Trading Funds they are required to set fees to meet their outgoings. On 27 October 2008, DSA issued a public consultation on changes to the level of fees applicable to the practical driving test for goods vehicles while on 6 November 2008, VOSA issued a public consultation on changes to the level and structure of its fees for the testing of goods vehicles and operators, both to come into effect in April of this year.

This followed extensive discussion with Department officials that included analysis to ensure that:

proposed fees have been calculated in line with Government guidance on the setting of statutory fees;

that there are sound and appropriate assumptions upon which the agency's financial forecasts are based;

that the plans provide sufficient revenues to support the policies and objectives of the Department.

Following closure of the public consultations in January 2009, the agencies have prepared analyses of the responses from the consultation that form the basis of recommendations to the Minister on what fee changes should be made in April.

Motor Vehicles: Licensing

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what meetings he has had with the chief executives of *(a)* the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency, *(b)* the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency and *(c)* the Driving Standards Agency since his appointment. [263381]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Secretary of State met the chief executive of the Driving Standards Agency in November to discuss the 'Learning to Drive' consultation. I have regular update meetings with these agencies.

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department employs to ensure the value for money of expenditure by *(a)* the Driving Standards Agency, *(b)* the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency and *(c)* the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency. [263382]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Driving Standards Agency, the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency and the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency along with two other executive agencies and three central policy directorates form the Safety, Service Delivery and Logistics Group (SSDL) of the Department for Transport.

During 2006 and as part of the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review these executive agencies undertook a zero-based review of their key services in order to identify opportunities for improved efficiency or effectiveness in the delivery of those services.

The results of the zero-based review was a value for money delivery plan that targets £112 million of efficiencies and cost savings over the 2008-11 years resulting from a combination of:

the consumer take-up of new and existing electronic services;

the use of information to more effectively target enforcement activities;

the introduction of new working practices and processes; and

the rationalisation of the Group's estate.

In addition, the SSDL Group seeks to ensure that value for money principles are embedded in all of its activities by including the requirement for agencies to undertake external benchmarking of processes that are being renewed or changed.

Motor Vehicles: Testing

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 2123-5W, on A303: inspections, if he will provide equivalent information for each other Vehicle and Operator Services Agency checkpoint in England and Wales. [262416]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency has over 1,000 checkpoint sites, to find out the requested enforcement information would result in disproportionate cost being incurred.

Roads: Safety Measures

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 9-10W, on cycling: helmets, if he will take steps to ensure the earlier publication of his Department's final reports on road safety and cycling issues. [263451]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department is working with the contractors, TRL, to ensure the road safety and cycle project maintains on schedule with the publication of the project's final reports in autumn 2010.

TREASURY

Bradford and Bingley

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what timetable he has set for the appointment of an independent valuer in respect of the compensation scheme for shareholders of Bradford and Bingley. [263622]

Ian Pearson: On 10 March 2009, the Government announced that they were inviting applications for the position of independent valuer to assess any compensation that may be payable to former holders of the shares in Bradford and Bingley plc that were transferred to the Treasury in September last year (and other specified persons affected by the transfer).

The closing date for applications is 7 April 2009. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to present to a selection panel in May 2009. Thereafter, the panel will submit their recommendation to Treasury Ministers. Further details can be found on the Treasury website at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/valuer

Consolidated Fund: Fines

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 133W, on Consolidated Fund: fines, which public bodies are required to surrender their revenue from fines to the Consolidated Fund. [258625]

Yvette Cooper: For all central Government Departments most cash receipts, either by specific legislation or by the Civil List Act 1952, are required to be paid into the Consolidated Fund. Local authorities are not required to surrender income from fines to the Consolidated Fund.

The requirement to surrender income ceases to apply where the Treasury lays an omnibus minute, alongside each Supply Estimates publication, under section 2 of the Government Resource and Accounts Act 2000. This enables Departments to use specified income to offset the costs of their expenditure. The Supply Estimates provide details of the income appropriated in aid.

The Resource Accounts of each Department contain information on both amounts appropriated in aid and those surrendered as Consolidated Fund Extra Receipts. The level of detail disclosed on fines will vary between the accounts and will be influenced by factors such as the materiality of fines to the figures in the accounts.

Details of fines are not separately identifiable within the Consolidated Fund's receipts.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when a reply will be sent to the hon. Member for West Chelmsford's letter of 13 October 2008, Treasury reference: 1/6189/2008, concerning Mr Richard Macaskill of Chelmsford; and what the reason is for the time taken to reply. [263379]

Ian Pearson: A reply has been sent to the hon. Member.

Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 47-8WS, on Government infrastructure investment, what the planned source will be of the professional lending skills to be used by the Treasury in lending to private finance initiative projects. [262777]

Ian Pearson: HM Treasury will use the skills of a combination of Treasury employees and secondees.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 47-8WS, on Government infrastructure investment, what estimate he has made of the average return on capital committed to private finance initiative projects which have been completed and refinanced to date. [262778]

Ian Pearson: The private finance initiative (PFI) should only be used where it demonstrates value for money in absolute terms and when compared with other forms of procurement. Competition among PFI providers is designed to ensure that the best value for money options are selected, helping to ensure that investors' returns on capital invested in PFI projects are appropriate.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 47-8WS, on Government infrastructure investment, what his latest estimate is of the number of private finance initiative projects for which the Government will provide the full amount of senior debt. [262781]

Ian Pearson: The Government will determine which projects will receive what quantity of senior debt on a project-by-project basis.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 47-8WS, on Government infrastructure investment, what steps his Department is taking on management of credit risk in circumstances where the Government are providing the full amount of senior debt required by a private finance initiative infrastructure project. [262782]

Ian Pearson: The Treasury's lending facility will operate at arm's length from the authorities procuring private finance initiative (PFI) projects. It will operate on a commercial basis with robust risk management procedures and will lend on commercial terms.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 47-8WS, on Government infrastructure investment,

(1) what steps his Department is taking to ensure value for money from Government lending to private finance initiative infrastructure projects; [262783]

(2) whether his Department's value for money assessment guidance will apply in determining the projects for which the Government will provide the full amount of senior debt for a private finance initiative infrastructure project; [262787]

(3) if he will place in the Library a copy of any comparative cost-benefit analysis of switching to alternative procurement methods in private finance initiative infrastructure projects undertaken by or on behalf of his Department. [262795]

Ian Pearson: HM Treasury's Green Book (http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/data_greenbook_guidance.htm) states that all new policies, programmes and projects should be subject to comprehensive assessment, including an appraisal of value for money.

Private finance initiative projects are required to further test value for money using tailored qualitative and quantitative appraisals which must form part of the project's business case (http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/ppp_vfm_index.htm).

Competition among PFI providers is designed to ensure that the best value for money options are selected.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 47-8WS, on Government infrastructure investment, when he expects his Department's lending to private finance initiative projects to have been repaid. [262786]

Ian Pearson: The Treasury will lend to projects only where appropriate funding is not available from the market. It will be a temporary intervention. As with normal commercial lending these loans will bear interest and will be repaid over the life of the project.

The Treasury envisages selling the loans it makes prior to their maturity as favourable market conditions return.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 47-8WS, on Government infrastructure investment, (1) what pricing structure the Government will use when providing the full amount of senior debt required by a private finance initiative infrastructure project; [262788]

(2) what criteria the Government will use to determine appropriate means of funding provision for a private finance initiative infrastructure project. [262789]

Ian Pearson: It is intended that the Government will lend to PFI projects on commercial terms, alongside other commercial lenders and/or the European Investment Bank.

The Government will only lend to those PFI projects that cannot raise sufficient debt finance on acceptable terms.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 47-8WS, on Government infrastructure investment, how the private finance initiative infrastructure projects receiving additional Government funding will be selected. [262790]

Ian Pearson: All PFI projects in procurement (that have, to date, issued a notice in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU)) will be eligible for this finance from the Government. Future projects intending to go to market soon will also be eligible, provided they meet the usual value for money and affordability criteria, and subject to Treasury approval before issuing their OJEU notice.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 47-8WS, on Government infrastructure investment, what steps his Department is taking to ensure that returns to private investors on private finance initiative projects supported by his Department's lending reflect the transfer of risk back to the public purse implicit in such support. [262794]

Ian Pearson: Retaining the PFI structure will mean that the private sector will continue to bear the risk of cost over runs and delays. As such equity investors will continue to bear the primary risk in these projects. Where available, private sector debt will continue to be provided and will therefore also take risk.

Royal Bank of Scotland

Mr. Bone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1423W, on the Royal Bank of Scotland, what tax losses and allowances will not be claimed by Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS); what amount of tax losses and allowances will be forgone by RBS; which RBS tax losses and allowances will be set against previous profits; and what the total figure that could be claimed by RBS in tax losses and allowances is. [263450]

Ian Pearson: RBS has agreed not to claim certain UK tax losses and allowances for a number of years, meaning that when they do return to profitability, they will not be able to benefit from the losses accrued in the intervening period. Final arrangements are subject to ongoing discussions with, and quantification by, HMRC.

Further information about RBS's undertakings will be available when all of the detailed terms of RBS's entry into the asset protection scheme have been finalised.

Taxation

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what expenditure his Department incurred in paying interest on tax refunds in each of the last five years. [262727]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people received tax refunds from HM Revenue and Customs and its predecessor in each of the last five years. [262728]

Mr. Timms: Information on the number of people receiving income tax repayments is not available. The following table provides the numbers of income tax repayments made to individuals. In some cases, one person will have received more than one repayment.

	Total number of repayments (million)
2003-04	6.55
2004-05	6.59
2005-06	6.28
2006-07	5.93
2007-08	5.58

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was charged in interest on unpaid tax by HM Revenue and Customs and its predecessor in each of the last five years. [262729]

Mr. Timms: Amounts of interest charged on unpaid direct taxes are not available on a financial year basis. HM Revenue and Customs collect figures to an annual October date.

The table provides the amount of interest charged for 2003-04 to 2006-07, figures for 2007-08 have not yet been finalised. These figures do not necessarily equate to interest received by HMRC and do not include interest charged on corporation tax liabilities raised prior to the start of CT self assessment (CTSA).

Table 1: Interest charged on direct taxes (excluding pre-CTSA charges)

Period	£ million
To October 2004	547.3
To October 2005	635.4
To October 2006	730.2
To October 2007	957.8

The following table provides figures for the interest charged on unpaid VAT; these run from 1 April to 31 March each year. Data are not readily available for indirect taxes other than VAT, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Table 2: Interest charged on VAT

	£ million
2004-05	57.7
2005-06	80.2
2006-07	82.5
2007-08	99.6

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effect on his Department's revenue of reducing the amount of interest paid on tax refunds to zero in 2008-09. [262730]

Mr. Timms: No such estimate has been made.

Taxation: Business

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to reduce the burden of tax on small and medium-sized enterprises which work with young people most at risk of committing anti-social behaviour. [263018]

Mr. Timms: The Chancellor announced a number of measures at the 2008 pre-Budget report to reduce the burden of taxation on small and medium-sized enterprises, including a deferral of the planned increase in the small companies' rate of corporation tax, the business payment support service and more generous use of the loss carry-back rules. Currently, there are no plans to provide specific tax reliefs for businesses that work with young people most at risk of committing anti-social behaviour.

WALES

Departmental Bank Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales with which banks his Department has or has had contracts for the provision of financial advice, for the financial year 2008-09. [262750]

Mr. Paul Murphy: None.

Departmental Lost Property

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what property has been lost or stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what the estimated cost was of replacement of such property. [263164]

Mr. Paul Murphy: None.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much his Department has spent on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* food in each of the last five years. [261162]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office hosts a limited number of receptions over a year to mark, for example St. David's Day. Parliamentarians, journalists and those with an interest in Welsh affairs are invited. In some years these have been supplemented by joint Wales Office/National Assembly for Wales receptions. The cost over the last five years were:

	On food	£ On alcohol
2004-05	6,238	0
2005-06	6,849	[1]0
2006-07	12,302	1,182
2007-08	7,664	1,752
2008-09	3,617	990

[1] In London.

In 2005-06 the cost of a Cardiff reception included alcohol, but this was not listed separately, therefore has been included in the figure for food.

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what his Department's entertainment budget was in each of the last five years. [261263]

Mr. Paul Murphy: My Department does not have an entertainment budget, however in the last five years we have spent the following amount on receptions.

	£
2004-05	6,238
2005-06	8,328
2006-07	16,467
2007-08	12,052
2008-09	8,058

From 2005-06 figures are reckoned on a different basis to reflect costs more fully.

Departmental Translation Services

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what the average cost per word of outsourced translations of his Department's documents has been in the last 12 months. [262731]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office pays an average of 10p per word for outsourced translation of documents.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 16 March 2009

SCOTLAND

Departmental Data Protection

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether his Department uses WPA2 encryption protocol on all its wireless networks. [259836]

Ann McKechin: Information is a key asset to Government and its correct handling is vital to the delivery of public services and to the integrity of HMG. The Security Policy Framework, the Data Handling Report and the National Information Assurance Strategy produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic framework for protecting information that Government handle and put in place a set of mandatory measures which Departments must adhere to.

The Scotland Office does not have any wireless networks. Any possible wireless networks would follow CESG guidance on the use of the Wi-Fi Protected Access 2 (WPA2) communications security protocols in order to protect wireless networks carrying protectively marked (up to restricted/IL3) traffic. The configuration and operation standards for WPA2 are set out in CESG's Infosec Manual Y, Use of WPA2 Wireless Security in Government Systems.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what auditing his Department undertakes to ensure that IT security policies are being followed; and on how many occasions *(a)* IT security policies have been breached by employees and *(b)* a member of staff has been sanctioned for a breach of such policies in the last 12 months. [259837]

Ann McKechin: Information is a key asset to Government and its correct handling is vital to the delivery of public services and to the integrity of HMG. The Security Policy Framework, the Data Handling Report and the National Information Assurance Strategy produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic framework for protecting information that Government handle and put in place a set of mandatory measures which Departments must adhere to.

The Scotland Office is compliant with the security policies contained in the Government Security Policy Framework including those for information security and assurance, these comprise a system of self assessment, accreditation, assurance reporting, audit and review.

There have been no reported cases of breaches of IT security policies in the last 12 months. However, in the event of any such breach, a range of sanctions are available including disciplinary or administrative action, and in extreme or persistent cases, termination of employment/ services and, if appropriate, criminal proceedings.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's IT security hierarchy. [259838]

Ann McKechin: Information is a key asset to Government and its correct handling is vital to the delivery of public services and to the integrity of HMG. The Security Policy Framework, the Data Handling Report and the National Information Assurance Strategy produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic framework for protecting information that Government handle and put in place a set of mandatory measures which Departments must adhere to.

The Scotland Office is part of the Ministry of Justice. It is not in the interest of the security of the Office, or that of the public, to disclose detailed information pertaining to individuals responsibilities or to specific electronic breaches of security of Department's IT systems. Disclosing such information would enable criminals and those who would attempt to cause disruptive threats to the Department to deduce how to conduct attacks and therefore potentially enhance their capability to carry out such attacks.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what scanning for vulnerabilities his Department conducts of each of its IT devices; what method is used for IT device scans; and how many vulnerabilities have been detected as a result of such scans in the last 12 months. [259839]

Ann McKechin: Information is a key asset to Government and its correct handling is vital to the delivery of public services and to the integrity of HMG. The Security Policy Framework, the Data Handling Report and the National Information Assurance Strategy produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic framework for protecting information that Government handle and put in place a set of mandatory measures which Departments must adhere to.

It is not in the interest of the security of the Office, or that of the public, to disclose detailed information pertaining to electronic breaches of security of Department's IT systems. Disclosing such information would enable criminals and those who would attempt to cause disruptive threats to the Department to deduce how to conduct attacks and therefore potentially enhance their capability to carry out such attacks.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what IT security policy his Department has; what procedures are in place to ensure the policy is being followed; what his Department's policy is on encryption of data when they leave departmental premises; and what sanctions are in place for failure to comply with this policy. [259845]

Ann McKechin: Information is a key asset to Government and its correct handling is vital to the delivery of public services and to the integrity of HMG. The Security Policy Framework, the Data Handling Report and the National Information Assurance Strategy produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic framework for protecting information that Government handle and put in place a set of mandatory measures which Departments must adhere to.

The Scotland Office shares an information technology system (SCOTS) with the Scottish Executive, who are responsible for the development, administration (including data compliance and security) and maintenance of the system. Under this arrangement, the Scotland Office is compliant with the security policies contained in the Government Security Policy Framework including those for information security and assurance.

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much expenditure was incurred in respect of overseas visits which *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers in his Department and *(c)* his Department's senior officials undertook in 2008. [262171]

Ann McKechin: Since 1999, the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the financial year 2007-08 was published on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 102WS, and for the first time, included details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All travel by Ministers is undertaken in accordance with the "Ministerial Code". No foreign travel was undertaken by senior officials in 2007-08.

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which trade unions are recognised in his Department. [263064]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office is part of the Ministry of Justice, and as such recognise those trade unions which are members of the Council of Civil Service Unions, these include: PCS, Prospect and FDA.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Scotland

Sandra Osborne: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many suppliers based in Scotland have been awarded contracts by the Olympic Delivery Authority to date. [263519]

Tessa Jowell: To the end of January 2009, 13 suppliers registered in Scotland had been awarded contracts by the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA).

The ODA will be attending a 2012 business engagement event in Scotland on 13 March. Details of this and similar events are provided on the London 2012 website:

www.london2012.com

I will also be visiting Scotland on 30 April to 11 May to encourage businesses to get involved in the games.

Businesses should be encouraged to sign up to CompeteFor, the electronic brokerage service that is designed to give businesses across the country access to contracts in the London 2012 supply chains and any support they need to get ready to compete for them. To date, just over 2,000 opportunities have been posted on CompeteFor.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Culture: Education

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the Creative Sparks initiative. [263067]

Barbara Follett: The Creative Sparks initiative developed into the Cultural Hubs programme, which ran from autumn 2005 to summer 2008. This comprised a consortium of cultural organisations and schools working together in three areas of England to create inspirational learning opportunities for young people.

The total budget for each Cultural Hub was £1 million. Creative Sparks identified 10 areas of work which the schools were asked to deliver on. By 2008, 33 per cent. of Cultural Hubs schools had delivered 100 per cent. of the 10 areas and 78 per cent. had delivered 80 per cent. of the 10 areas outlined in the original Creative Sparks initiative.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport continues to support the initiative's aims through a range of work including new audiences, young talent and a cultural offer for children and young people.

Digital Switchover Help Scheme

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions his Department has had with groups representing *(a)* the elderly and *(b)* the disabled on assisting older people with digital switchover. [261835]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 11 March 2009]:* My Department holds quarterly meetings with the Consumer Expert Group (CEG) set up to advise Government on consumer issues relating to digital television. Help the Aged, Age Concern, the Royal National Institute for the Deaf, the Royal National Institute for the Blind, the Telecommunications Action Group and Sense are all represented on the Group. Digital UK and the Digital Switchover Help Scheme Ltd. who administer the Switchover Help Scheme for the BBC also attend.

In addition, we occasionally have separate meetings with members of CEG.

At the request of the Government, the group made a number of recommendations on the structure and operation of the help scheme which provides assistance to older and significantly disabled people through digital switchover and these are available at:

www.digitalswitchover.gov.uk

TRANSPORT

High Speed Two: Finance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding his Department has agreed to provide to High Speed Two Ltd. [263423]

Paul Clark: The company High Speed Two (HS2) Ltd. will be provided with grants totalling up to £5 million over the course of 2009. This will be reviewed in the light of detailed work planning by High Speed Two.

Humber Bridge: Road Traffic

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate his Department has made of the daily volume of business traffic crossing the Humber Bridge. [263669]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 13 March 2009]:* The Humber Bridge Board is responsible for estimating levels of traffic on the Humber Bridge.

Humber Bridge: Tolls

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the annual amount collected in tolls from business traffic crossing the Humber Bridge. [263670]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 13 March 2009]:* The Humber Bridge Board is responsible for recording and estimating toll revenues collected on the Humber Bridge.

Lyme Bay: Boats

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many vessels have been inspected by the Marine and Coastguard Agency within the territorial waters of Lyme Bay in each of the last 10 years; and for what reason in each case. [263968]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) usually inspects vessels in port rather than at sea.

The MCA only holds records from 2002 and does not hold specific information for the territorial waters off Lyme Bay. However for the area up to 12 nautical miles between Portland Bill and Start Point, the breakdown by year is shown in the table:

Inspection type	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Planned	7	2	1	2	—	6	1
Surveillance	—	—	—	2	—		
In conjunction with a survey	—	—	—	3	3	7	4
During Ship-to-Ship oil transfer	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
Mandatory Expanded Inspection (European requirement)	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Post accident	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
During Tall Ships Event	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Total	9	4	1	8	5	13	5

M1

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Highways Agency has spent on producing, printing and distributing newsletters on the widening of the M1 motorway between junctions 25 and 28. [263399]

Paul Clark: Three newsletters have been produced for this scheme, in October 2007, May 2008 and November 2008. The external costs for printing and distribution to date is £10,341.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Highways Agency has spent on relocating people from their land or houses during the widening of the M1 motorway between junctions 25 and 28. [263873]

Paul Clark: The widening is all within the Highways Agency's boundary and therefore there is no additional landtake. The cost to date is £329.40 which was to relocate one resident for three nights during piling work.

Further costs in the region of £1,460 will be incurred during the week commencing 9 March 2009. These costs are in relation to providing accommodation for five households overnight to mitigate against any noise disruption as a result of beam lifting work being carried out.

Motor Vehicles: Testing

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many vehicle testing stations *(a)* have been closed in the last 12 months and *(b)* are scheduled for closure; what the reason is in each case; and if he will make a statement. [263536]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) has not closed any testing stations in the last 12 months.

In order to remove overcapacity in VOSA's testing services, VOSA has already announced to customers that Bredbury, Steeton and St. Austell Goods Vehicle Testing Stations will be closing during the current year. VOSA continues to review its capacity requirements.

National Networks Strategy Group

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many times the National Networks Strategy Group has met since it was established; and what matters were discussed at each meeting. [262421]

Paul Clark: The National Networks Strategy Group has met four times since it was established on 29 October 2008. The Group has discussed how to make best use of the existing key networks and considered longer term solutions for strategic transport corridors. Some of this work contributed to the 15 January oral statement on "Britain's Transport Infrastructure". This announced the £6 billion programme of managed motorway schemes, progress on the electrification of our rail network, and the creation of the company High Speed Two, to report by the end of the year on a new high speed line between London and the West Midlands.

Railways: Scotland

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many times he has met the Scottish Executive Minister to discuss proposals for a high-speed rail line to Scotland. [262462]

Paul Clark: The Minister of State, Lord Adonis, spoke to the Scottish Executive Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change regarding high speed rail services to Scotland in January. Officials from the Department for Transport meet regularly with Scottish Executive officials to discuss a range of cross-border transport issues, including rail.

Roads

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department spent on new *(a)* roads and *(b)* motorways in each year since 1997. [262457]

Paul Clark: The following table shows the available data on expenditure on new construction/improvement and structural maintenance on motorways and trunk roads, and expenditure on new construction/improvement for highways, lighting, road safety and structural maintenance (includes expenditure on patching) on local roads in England for 1997-98 to 2006-07. These data do not enable new road construction to be identified as a separate category.

	Motorway and trunk roads[1]	*Local roads*[2]
1997-98	1,325.1	1,463.3
1998-99	828.2	1,213.0
1999-2000	961.1	1,394.9
2000-01[3]	960.7	1,389.6
2001-02	1,020.4	1,982.4
2002-03	1,155.1	2,484.7
2003-04	856.3	2,378.8
2004-05	1,053.4	2,613.4
2005-06	1,276.7	2,773.2
2006-07	1,620.8	2,730.0

[1] Figures are now collected on a resource accounting basis and cannot be compared with data prior to 2001-02. Until 2001-02, associated costs of investment (including depreciation and capital costs) were not included within these figures.
[2] Local authority expenditure excludes car parks.
[3] Trunk roads in London were transferred to Transport for London in July 2000 and were reclassified as principal roads. Expenditure on these roads from 2000-01 is shown under the "Local roads" heading.
Source:
Highways Agency Financial Accounts and local authority returns to Communities and Local Government

The most recent year's expenditure are published each year in table 7.13 of 'Transport Statistics Great Britain', available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/tsgb/

Roads: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make it his policy to bring forward capital spending in road infrastructure in Essex; and if he will make a statement. [263279]

Paul Clark: We have recently received formal Regional Funding Allocation advice from the East of England setting out its funding priorities to 2018-19. The advice has prioritised capital funding for a number of road infrastructure schemes which fall within Essex. This includes the Sadlers Farm local major road scheme and £60 million towards introducing new traffic management measures to improve safety, reduce delays and tackle congestion along the A12 from London through Essex and Suffolk to the Felixstowe and Harwich Ports.

The Government will now consider the Region's advice carefully and expects to announce its response in the summer.

On the strategic road network, subject to completion of funding arrangements, works are planned to start on widening the M25 between junctions 27 and 30 during 2009-10.

In addition, the Highways Agency has been granted additional funding in 2009-10 to accelerate its capital investment programme across the strategic road network in England by some £400 million. The agency is currently finalising its plans to allocate this additional funding to ensure best use of available resources and value for money.

Finally, through the Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF), the Department for Transport has funded £37.6 million towards road infrastructure improvements. Further CIF schemes in Essex are also now being assessed, with an announcement expected shortly.

Roads: Safety

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Ribble Valley (Mr. Evans) of 6 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1874W on roads: safety, if he will make it his policy to place in the Library the results of the first round of road safety partnership grants as soon as they have been completed. [264206]

Jim Fitzpatrick: An assessment of the effectiveness of road safety partnership grants in England is in progress. It will be completed when results from the first round of projects are available.

This first round of road safety partnership grant projects in England is due for completion this spring with evaluation reports due between March 2009 and March 2010. The scheduling of the reporting is influenced by the need to measure and evaluate some of the impacts of projects after they have been completed.

An overview of the key outcomes and lessons learned from some of the projects within the first round of the Road Safety Partnership Grant Scheme is currently underway and a 'headline impact' report is planned for publication later this spring.

A copy of this report will be placed in the Library. The policy is that, in general, material related to the evaluation of local projects will be published on the Department for Transport website.

Transport: Noise

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what traffic noise pollution datasets held by his Department supply data broken down by *(a)* constituency, *(b)* local authority, *(c)* county and *(d)* region. [263455]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I have been asked to reply.

The traffic noise pollution datasets held by DEFRA are those created to fulfil the first round mapping requirements of Directive 2002/49/EC (Relating to the Assessment and Management of Environmental Noise). The datasets include noise levels from roads in 23 agglomerations in England (listed), and major roads elsewhere in England with greater than six million vehicle passages per annum. The mapping was completed in 2007.

The datasets are not currently broken down by constituency, local authority area, county or region.

List of agglomerations

Birkenhead
Blackpool
Bournemouth
Brighton
Bristol
Coventry
Hull
Leicester
Liverpool
London
Manchester
Nottingham
Portsmouth
Preston
Reading
Sheffield
Southampton
Southend
Teesside
The Potteries
Tyneside
West Midlands
West Yorkshire

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Age: Discrimination

Mr. Swire: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what discussions she has had with insurance companies on age discrimination in relation to the Equality Bill. [260837]

Maria Eagle: Insurance companies have been closely involved in the work the Government have been undertaking on age discrimination in relation to the Equality Bill.

They participated in the financial services expert working group along with other experts and age sector organisations, which discussed the use of age in different financial services and issued a report of its conclusions in October 2008.

The Association of British Insurers is also a key member of the Senior Stakeholder Group, which provides advice to the Government Equalities Office and its Ministers on the full range of measures designed to strengthen equality protection and to streamline the law.

We will continue to have discussions with the insurance industry as we take forward our work on developing proposals in this area, on which there will be further public consultation.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Welwyn, Hatfield (Grant Shapps) of 28 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 581W, on the departmental internet, how many hits each of the websites maintained by the Government Equalities Office received in each of the last 12 months. [262834]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office (GEO) maintains one website. The GEO has been able to count hits at:

www.equalities.gov.uk

since the website was transferred to a new system in July 2008. Statistics since then are as follows:

Month	*Number of hits*
2008	
July	9,797
August	40,318
September	5,062
October	88,058
November	14,933
December	53,631
2009	
January	19,165
February	21,887
March (to 9 March 2009)	9,290

Departmental Public Appointments

Harry Cohen: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what information her Office holds on the number of persons appointed to executive positions in bodies for which her Office has responsibility who previously had careers in the banking industry. [261241]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office (GEO) sponsors two non-departmental public bodies, the Equality and Human Rights Commission and the Women's National Commission. GEO is not aware that any of those appointed to these bodies have had careers in the banking industry. Brief biographies of board and executive members on these bodies are available on their respective websites at:

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/aboutus/whoweare/Pages/Commissioners.aspx#deputychair

and

http://www.thewnc.org.uk/about-wnc/wnc-commissioners/commissioners-biographies.html

Departmental Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much has been spent by her Office on staff surveys in each year since their inception; and which companies were contracted to carry out the surveys. [260875]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office is presently undertaking its first annual staff survey at a cost of £11,265 excluding VAT and has contracted with ORC International.

Equality: Business

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what estimate she has made of the costs to business of the proposals on the public procurement process to be contained in the Equality Bill. [260284]

Maria Eagle: The Government are continuing to explore whether we can do more to encourage public authorities to use procurement to further equality outcomes. We are examining legislative and non-legislative options taking account of EU procurement rules and the need for value for money.

Expert Equality Taskforce

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality when she expects the Expert Equality Taskforce to report; what the membership of the taskforce is; and what declarations of political activity have been made by each member. [259533]

Maria Eagle: I am not aware of a body called the Expert Equality Taskforce. However, the National Equality Panel has been established by the London School of Economics with a grant from the Government Equalities Office. The Panel has been asked to report by the end of 2009 on the relationships between different aspects of inequality in people's economic situations, and their other characteristics and circumstances. Professor John Hills was appointed chair; who then appointed the remaining nine members, as independent experts in particular aspects of equality. They are: Mike Brewer, Professor Stephen Jenkins, Professor Steve Machin, Professor Colin Mills, Professor Ruth Lister, Professor Sheila Riddell, Professor Teresa Rees, Dr. Ruth Lupton and Professor Tariq Modood. Further details of the Panel and its membership can be found on the Government Equalities Office website at:

http://www.equalities.gov.uk/national_equality_panel.aspx

The National Equality Panel is not a non-departmental public body, and does not have a register of political interests.

Prostitution: Human Trafficking

Mr. Bone: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues on the provision of services for women who have been trafficked into the UK for sexual exploitation. [261779]

Maria Eagle: We believe that existing mechanisms (the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Human Trafficking and the Home Office NGO Stakeholder Group) provide appropriate forums for discussion and advocacy on issues surrounding trafficking for sexual exploitation, as well as allowing for close scrutiny of progress on the Action Plan and the Council of Europe Convention.

As Minister for Women and Equality, I ensure all Government Departments are considering the specific concerns of vulnerable women. The Home Office and the UK Border Agency continue to work with our international partners both to raise awareness of human trafficking and further strengthen our ability to prevent this crime taking place.

Rape: Victim Support Schemes

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality whether the £1 million emergency fund for rape crisis centres will be continued in 2009-10. [261038]

Maria Eagle: This financial year, as well as providing £1.25 million from the Victims' Fund, the Government have paid out £900,000 from a £1.1 million special fund for rape crisis centres. Since the special fund was announced in March 2008, no rape crisis centre has closed.

This central Government funding is in addition to funding from local bodies, such as local authorities, who are well-placed to assess local needs.

The Government Equalities Office has been working closely with Rape Crisis (England and Wales) and The Survivors Trust to shape how the 2009-10 special fund for the sexual violence voluntary sector will work. We will announce details of the fund shortly.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Data Protection

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether his Department uses WPA2 encryption protocol on all its wireless networks. [259824]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office follows CESG guidance on the use of the Wi-Fi Protected Access 2 (WPA2) communications security protocols in order to protect wireless networks carrying protectively marked (up to RESTRICTED/IL3) traffic. The configuration and operation standards for WPA2 are set out in CESG's Infosec Manual Y, Use of WPA2 Wireless Security in Government Systems.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's IT security hierarchy. [259826]

Paul Goggins: It is not in the interest of the security of the Department, or that of the public, to place a copy of the Northern Ireland Office IT security hierarchy in the Library.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what scanning for vulnerabilities his Department conducts of each of its IT devices; what method is used for IT device scans; and how many vulnerabilities have been detected as a result of such scans in the last 12 months. [259827]

Paul Goggins: It is not in the interest of the security of the Northern Ireland Office, or that of the public, to disclose details of scans or vulnerabilities. Disclosing such information would enable criminals and those who would attempt to cause disruptive threats to the Department to deduce how to conduct attacks and therefore potentially enhance their capability to carry out such attacks.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what IT security policy his Department has; what procedures are in place to ensure the policy is being followed; what his Department's policy is on encryption of data when it leaves departmental premises; and what sanctions are in place for failure to comply with this policy. [259848]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office is compliant with the security policies contained in the Government Security Policy Framework including those for information security and assurance.

Depending upon the circumstances, a range of sanctions are available including disciplinary or administrative action, and in extreme or persistent cases, termination of employment/services and, if appropriate, criminal proceedings.

Departmental Impact Assessments

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many equalities impact assessments his Department has undertaken in the last 12-month period for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of such assessments. [255067]

Mr. Woodward: No equality impact assessments were undertaken by my Department excluding agencies and NDPBs in the last 12-month period for which figures are available.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 5 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1415W, on departmental marketing, how much of the total for 2007-08 was spent on *(a)* media advertising, *(b)* promotion and *(c)* education packs and initiatives for schools. [257287]

Mr. Woodward: The following table illustrates the Department's expenditure, excluding its agencies and executive NDPBs, on media advertising, promotion and education packs and initiatives for schools in 2007-08:

Expenditure type	*2007-08 expenditure (£)*
Media advertising	371,038
Promotion	67,827
Education packs and initiatives for schools	34,547

Some of these figures also include crime prevention initiative costs which are not part of the original advertising costs quoted in the answer of 5 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1415W.

Departmental Public Appointments

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what information his Department holds on the number of persons appointed to executive positions in bodies for which his Department has responsibility in the last five years who previously had careers in the banking industry. [261223]

Mr. Woodward: Information on the number of persons appointed to executive positions in the last five years who previously had careers in the banking industry is not held centrally and to obtain this information would incur disproportionate costs.

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which trade unions are recognised in his Department. [262085]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office attaches great importance to ensuring effective consultation and involvement of its staff. It is a personal decision whether or not to join a trade union; however the Department encourages staff to join an appropriate trade union and to play an active part in it, ensuring their views are represented.

Members of staff in the Northern Ireland Office and its agencies are currently represented by the following Trades Unions:

NIPSA (Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance)

FDA (First Division Association)

PCS (Public and Commercial Services Union)

NASUWT (National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers)

POA (Prison Officer's Association)

UNISON

PGA (Prison Governor's Association).

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Land

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the area of farmland of each agricultural land classification at risk of flooding. [262117][1]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA has estimated that out of a total of approximately 14 million hectares of agricultural land in England, 1.3 million hectares are in areas of potential flood risk. Of that, approximately 40 per cent. is grade 1 or 2 and 60 per cent. is grade 3, 4 or 5. DEFRA is refining this estimate with the support of its delivery partners.

Economic Situation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* summits, *(b)* conferences and *(c)* seminars his Department has hosted since January 2008 at which a primary subject of discussion was the effect of the economic situation on matters within his Department's responsibility. [259766]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Since January 2008, the Secretary of State, Ministers and officials have hosted various events at which the impact of the economic situation on matters within the Department's responsibility has been a focus. These events have involved participation by DEFRA staff as well as delivery partners and external bodies.

In October, the Department hosted an internal conference for members of the senior civil service, at which the economic situation was one of the discussion topics. There were follow-up workshops to take work forward.

1. *[Official Report, 20 April 2009, Vol. 491, c. 2MC.]*

The impact of the economic situation on the Department's business and priorities is built into the Management Board's performance management process.

We have also discussed the impact of the economic situation with our delivery bodies, including at a conference with the chairmen of our NDPBs held last autumn. DEFRA and DECC held a seminar with delivery bodies in November 2008 to discuss what more could be done to support business in the area of resource efficiency.

The Secretary of State and the Department's officials are working closely with other Government Departments on the economy. The Secretary of State attends the meetings of the Prime Minister's National Economic Council. In his 16 February 2009 speech to the National Farmers Union, he announced his intention to convene an industry round-table on skills in the agriculture/horticulture sector in the light of the economic situation.

Renewable Energy: Waste

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the proportion of energy generated by energy from waste plants. [263087]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I have been asked to reply.

In 2007 Municipal Solid Waste plants generated 1,884 GWh of electricity out of total UK generation of 396,457 GWh. This is equivalent to 0.5 per cent. In addition 171,000 tonnes of oil equivalent were used to generate heat in 2007 which equates to about 0.25 per cent. of UK total demand for heat in that year.

Science Advisory Council

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women are members of the Science Advisory Council; and if he will make a statement. [263409]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 13 March 2009]:* Membership of DEFRA's Science Advisory Council currently consists of 11 men and three women.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to answer question 248253, on loss of departmental property, tabled on 12 January 2009. [262506]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to him on 11 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 433-34W.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many units of *(a)* blood platelets and *(b)* blood plasma transported to Afghanistan for use by the armed forces were destroyed because they were past their use-by date in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [262567]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Records held by the MOD reflect the difference between the amount of blood supplied to operations and the amount transfused. From August 2007 to the end of February 2009, the difference between the amount of blood supplied to Afghanistan and the amount transfused was 265 units of blood platelets and 327 units of fresh frozen plasma. Each unit contains approximately 300 ml. There are a number of reasons for this difference—for example, expiration of the use-by date, damage in transit or accidental exposure to high temperature.

Prior to August 2007, information was not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Blood

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consideration he has given to introducing pathogen-inactivated blood products for military personnel in theatre; and if he will make a statement. [262563]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 19W, to the hon. Member for Coventry, North-West (Mr. Robinson).

Armed Forces: Health Services

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of levels of cleanliness in medical centres operated by his Department. [263681]

Mr. Kevan Jones: In 2008, the MOD's Surgeon General invited the Healthcare Commission to carry out a review of the Defence Medical Services' (DMS) clinical governance processes to help benchmark the DMS's achievement, and help them to continue to meet a high standard of care for Service Personnel by identifying those areas where improvement was needed.

The Commission's Report, published on 2 March, identified some areas where we must improve, including levels of cleanliness in some of our primary care medical centres. Action has already started to address the issues raised by the Commission, and the Surgeon General has instigated further work across the DMS to identify any other locations with similar problems so that appropriate action can be taken.

We welcome the review's recommendations, which will help the DMS continue to drive quality improvement as well as recognising where we are already demonstrating best practice in delivering healthcare.

Armed Forces: Pay

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date the Armed Forces Pay Review Body submitted its 2009 report on armed forces pay to his Department; and when his Department plans to publish *(a)* the report and *(b)* its response to the report's recommendations. [263888]

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date he received the report of the Armed Forces Pay Review Body for 2008; on what date he proposes to publish the report; and if he will make a statement. [263810]

Mr. Hutton: The Armed Forces Pay Review Body submitted its report for 2009 to the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Defence on 29 January 2009. The Government intend to make only one public sector pay award announcement this year and this will be made in due course.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will bring forward proposals to give retrospective effect for two years to the provisions of the Armed Forces Pension Scheme which provide that military spouses shall receive one-half of the total of the serving spouse's basic pension contributions. [263477]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Armed Forces Pension Scheme 1975 (AFPS 75) increased the rate of widows' and widowers' pension from one third of the member's pension to one half, from 31 March 1973. Individuals serving on or after this date were provided with the opportunity to make additional contributions so as to qualify former service for the half rate of widows' pension. On this basis, it would be difficult, in equity, to extend the half rate pension to widows whose husbands had left the service before that date, and who had not, as a result, contributed financially towards the improvement. It has also been the long-standing policy of successive Governments that discretionary changes to improve the benefits offered by public service pension schemes should be implemented for future service only.

Armed Forces: Young People

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent steps the Government have taken to assist service personnel under the age of 18 years. [263458]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer my hon. Friend to Ministry of Defence policy on the care of service personnel under the age of 18, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

Defence: Finance

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of defence inflation in each year to 2015. [263444]

Mr. Hutton: No estimate has been made of defence inflation for individual years out to 2015.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which factors have been identified by his Department as underlying defence inflation. [263540]

Mr. Hutton: Defence inflation is identified as increases in the costs of all elements of defence spending, including of civilian and service personnel and bought-in goods and services, after allowing for changes in quantity and quality of those goods and services.

Departmental Data Protection

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to paragraph 2.36 of the Final Report on Data Handling Procedures in Government, June 2008, what the result has been of each spot check carried out by the Information Commissioner since June 2008 in his Department. [263360]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence has not been subject to any spot checks by the Information Commissioner.

Departmental Impact Assessments

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many equalities impact assessments his Department has undertaken in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of such assessments. [259076]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Details of the Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment undertaken during the last 12 months are published in our Annual Report 2007-08 against the MOD's Equality and Diversity Scheme, copies of which have been placed in the Library of the House. We do not record the costs for this work separately as they are part of our normal business.

Departmental Lost Property

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what property has been lost or stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what the estimated cost was of replacement of such property. [263114]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The value of property lost or stolen is included, with a range of other types of losses, in the summary of losses and special payments published in the MOD's Annual Report and Accounts, copies are available in the Library of the House and in the MOD's publication scheme on line at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/AnnualReports/

(see note 29 in the departmental resource accounts for financial years 2003-04 and 2004-05 and note 31 for subsequent financial years). The summary identifies those individual cases with a value of £250,000 or more.

Departmental Property

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many and what proportion of houses and flats owned by his Department were empty at the latest date for which figures are available; what recent estimate he has made of the cost of refurbishing empty properties for occupation; and what sustainability criteria are applied to work carried out under his Department's refurbishment programme; [263605]

(2) which companies have been contracted to refurbish living accommodation for military personnel and their families in the last 10 years; and what the monetary value of each contract was. [263833]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The term 'refurbishment' is not one formally used by the Department, and is difficult to define. Work which might be categorised as 'refurbishment'

could include a number of activities, including the maintenance, modernisation and upgrade of service accommodation.

To provide details of every contract for the provision of these services over the last 10 years would incur disproportionate cost.

The majority of the 70,000 service family accommodation (SFA) properties worldwide are leased or rented by the Department, of which some 12,000 are currently void (not in use).

While most properties are void pending planned moves of service personnel, some are void to allow for work to bring them up to the top standard (of four) for condition, under the Department's SFA upgrade programme.

In addition to the significant investment in recent years, some £38 million will be spent in this financial year upgrading 600 properties, with plans for a further 800 in each year thereafter at a cost of some £48 million per year.

Departmental policies to achieve excellence in sustainability are considered in upgrading all properties and applied where it is affordable and cost effective to do so.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what military equipment he expects to leave in Iraq following the withdrawal of most UK forces later this year. [261793]

Mr. Hutton: We will retain that military equipment required by those UK personnel who remain in Iraq as part of our enduring relationship with the Government of Iraq. The details of this enduring relationship remain under discussion with the Government of Iraq. Planning for the withdrawal of UK forces continues and any proposal to gift equipment to Iraq would follow established procedures.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he will reply to the letter of 2 March 2009 from a constituent of the hon. Member for South West Devon, Mrs Popperwell. [263356]

Mr. Kevan Jones: While the Department aims to respond to all correspondence within 15 working days of receipt, we have no central record of a letter from the hon. Member's constituent.

Military Aircraft

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1366W, on Hercules aircraft; what the average annual estimated hourly usage over the 30 years' expected service life of the Hercules C-130J is. [263552]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Our current planning assumes that the average annual usage of the C-130J Hercules aircraft will be 824 flying hours per platform per year.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1440W, on future large aircraft, what the contractually agreed delivery dates are for each tranche of aircraft to be delivered between March 2010 and April 2015; and what the liquidated damages are for late delivery against contractually specified delivery dates. [263553]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The contracted delivery dates for UK A400M aircraft are as follows:

UK A/C	*Delivery dates*
1	March 2010
2	April 2010
3	August 2010
4	September 2010
5	October 2010
6	November 2010
7	December 2010
8	May 2011
9	June 2011
10	July 2011
11	September 2011
12	October 2011
13	November 2011
14	December 2011
15	February 2012
16	April 2012
17	May 2012
18	June 2012
19	December 2012
20	March 2013
21	March 2014
22	March 2014
23	August 2014
24	December 2014
25	April 2015

I am withholding the precise details of the liquidated damages as release would, or would be likely to, prejudice commercial interests.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 133-4W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, in what ways the Merlin MK3/3a helicopters have been upgraded. [263554]

Mr. Hutton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1363-64W, to the hon. Member for Aldershot (Mr. Howarth).

Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the new operational annex added to the United Kingdom-United States mutual defence agreement on atomic energy matters 1958. [263818]

Mr. Hutton: No new operational annex has been added to the United Kingdom-United States Mutual Defence Agreement. I refer the hon. Member to the

answer I gave on 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1370W, to the hon. Member for North Devon (Nick Harvey)

Peacekeeping Operations

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what systems are in place for the military medical services in theatre in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan to procure stocks of blood products locally should stocks supplied from the UK run out; and if he will make a statement. [262564]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The UK Defence Medical Services do not procure stocks of blood products locally in either Iraq or Afghanistan.

For routine transfusions, deployed UK military hospitals maintain stocks of blood sourced from UK National Blood Service (NBS) donor centres, which screen and test their donors according to nationally mandated standards. For most patients, this blood is all that is used or needed for their trauma care. However, in circumstances when standard blood stocks might not be sufficient, or where the properties of whole fresh blood are needed, an emergency blood transfusion from donors at a field hospital on or near the battlefield can be the only way of saving lives of gravely wounded UK personnel.

To enable blood to be obtained in such an emergency, UK field hospitals maintain an Emergency Donor Panel (EDP), consisting of a group of pre-screened volunteer donors who are available to donate blood at short notice. The volunteer donors will have been screened for suitability in accordance with UK NBS guidelines prior to deployment. Prior to donating at an EDP, a further check is made through use of a health questionnaire and an examination of the veins of the potential donors. Blood samples are taken to confirm a donor's blood group, and for retrospective testing by the UK NBS to confirm that the blood transfused remained free from transfusion transmitted infections.

The military forces of our coalition partners in both Iraq and Afghanistan have their own procedures for pre- and post-screening of blood obtained from their equivalent of an EDP. If seriously-injured UK casualties are treated in a coalition medical facility, they may be given a life-saving transfusion of such blood for the same reasons as apply in a UK field hospital, with the coalition facilities using the same procedures as would be used to treat one of their own nationals. On a few occasions UK field hospitals have also made use of blood and blood components provided by US Forces, to support UK casualties in an emergency.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the cost of supplying blood products to the armed forces based in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan in each year since military operations began in each theatre has been; and if he will make a statement; [262565]

(2) how much *(a)* blood, *(b)* blood platelets and *(c)* blood plasma has been transported to (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan for use by the armed forces in each year since the start of operations in each theatre; and if he will make a statement. [262566]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The cost and quantity of blood and blood products supplied to Iraq and Afghanistan is shown in the following table. Records prior to June 2006 are not held centrally and the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	Product	*Units shipped*	*Cost (£)*
Iraq			
June to December 2006	Red Cell Concentrate	285	37,565.85
	Fresh Frozen Plasma	0	
	Cryoprecipitate	0	
	Platelets	0	
	Sub-total		37,565.85
January to December 2007	Red Cell Concentrate	1,331	173,722.12
	Fresh Frozen Plasma	25	788.50
	Cryoprecipitate	0	—
	Platelets	142	32,985.18
	Sub-total		207,495.80
January to December 2008	Red Cell Concentrate	1,340	187,224.80
	Fresh Frozen Plasma	165	5,994.45
	Cryoprecipitate	10	2,273.60
	Platelets	232	53,891.28
	Sub-total		249,384.13
January to February 2009	Red Cell Concentrate	180	25,149.60
	Fresh Frozen Plasma	0	—
	Cryoprecipitate	0	—
	Platelets	36	8,362.44

	Product	Units shipped	Cost (£)
		Sub-total	33,512.04
		Total	527,957.82
Afghanistan			
June to December 2006	Red Cell Concentrate	990	129,214.80
	Fresh Frozen Plasma	66	2,081.64
	Cryoprecipitate	15	3,192.60
	Platelets	0	—
	Sub-total		134,489.04
January to December 2007	Red Cell Concentrate	1,860	242,767.20
	Fresh Frozen Plasma	260	8,200.40
	Cryoprecipitate	55	11,706.20
	Platelets	152	35,308.08
	Sub-total		297,981.88
January to December 2008	Red Cell Concentrate	3,055	426,844.60
	Fresh Frozen Plasma	1,889	68,627.37
	Cryoprecipitate	79	17,961.44
	Platelets	419	97,329.51
	Sub-total		610,762.92
January to February 2009	Red Cell Concentrate	530	74,051.60
	Fresh Frozen Plasma	203	7,374.99
	Cryoprecipitate	22	5,001.92
	Platelets	91	21,138.39
	Sub-total		107,566.90
	Total		1,150,800.74

It is not possible to quantify the exact volume of blood and blood product supplied to Iraq and Afghanistan, as due to variations in donors' physiology, donations are not the same size. Red Cell Concentrate and Fresh Frozen Plasma units are single donations; platelets units are an "Adult Therapeutic Dose" and can be a single donation or a mixture of four donors; and Cryoprecipitate is one mega unit that represents five individual donations.

QinetiQ

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make an assessment of the implications for the national interest of the disposal by QinetiQ of their underwater systems business at Winfrith to a non-UK company. [263221]

Mr. Quentin Davies: While final decisions on the future of QinetiQ plc's underwater systems business based at Winfrith and Bincleaves in Dorset are a commercial matter for the company, we are aware that discussions that might lead to a sale are ongoing with third parties. Any sale to a company subject to foreign control and influence would be conditional on the acquirer providing national security guarantees to HM Government regarding security of information and technology, and in particular the sustainment of onshore capacity and British expertise to carry out military research and development vital for the national interest.

Submarines: Accidents

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what collisions between Royal Navy submarines and other vessels took place between 1979 and 1997; and which vessels of which class were involved in each collision. [262632]

Mr. Hutton: The Trafalgar Class submarine HMS Trenchant and the Swiftsure Class submarine HMS Sceptre snagged fishing nets in November 1990 and November 1989 respectively. The Churchill Class submarine HMS Conqueror collided with a private yacht in 1988, as did the Oberon Class submarines HMS Otus and HMS Opportune in 1988 and 1992 respectively.

Information is not held centrally for the period 1979 to 1988 and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: Water

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the progress of the EU Water Initiative Africa Working Group towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals on water and sanitation. [262904]

Mr. Michael Foster: Sub-Saharan Africa is the region most off-track against the water and sanitation targets. The European Union (EU) is addressing this problem and last year disbursed nearly £1 billion to the water sector in Africa. The EU Africa Working Group (AWG) works with the African Ministers Council on Water (AMCOW) to improve the effectiveness of this aid. The European Commission recognises that improvements can be made to the way the AWG is structured and recently carried out an internal evaluation of the group that concluded that its roles, responsibilities and procedures need clarifying. The AWG has responded by agreeing to redesign the Project Logical Framework, so that the roles of all stakeholders are more clearly identified and the activities of the group can be more closely monitored.

The Department for International Development (DFID) is this year co-chairing the AWG with AMCOW. This has led to a strengthened engagement with African partners and donors to ensure that future aid provided to Africa more closely matches the needs of those countries to meet the water and sanitation targets. Other progress has also been made by the AWG, notably the development of the Africa-EU Statement on Sanitation that supports the eTekwini Declaration on Sanitation signed by 32 African Ministers in Durban in February 2008. Strong and clear commitments were given by African leaders to give higher priority to sanitation, make further funds available and take concrete action to meet the MDG target.

Christmas

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether it is his Department's policy to offer staff *(a)* additional leave entitlement for Christmas shopping and *(b)* Christmas bonus payments. [262813]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not offer staff additional leave for Christmas shopping, nor does it provide Christmas bonus payments.

Departmental Lost Property

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what property has been lost or stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what the estimated cost was of replacement of such property. [263113]

Mr. Michael Foster: Nine laptops and two mobile phones were lost/stolen from the Department for International Development (DFID) during the period 2007-08.

Replacement values are not recorded centrally and an exercise to obtain this information would incur disproportionate costs.

All DFID laptops have secure encryption technology and no data have been put at risk.

Departmental Secondment

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many secondments of staff were made *(a)* to and *(b)* from his Department in each year since 1997; which organisations staff were seconded (i) to and (ii) from; how many staff were seconded in each year; for how long each secondment lasted; and what the cost was of each secondment in each year. [263269]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not hold records of inward or outward secondments prior to 2005. The table shows the total number of staff seconded to or from DFID at 31 March in each of the following years:

	Inward secondments	*Outward secondments*
2005	96	50
2006	66	53
2007	74	62
2008	59	70

Staff are seconded to and from a wide range of organisations including international organisations (e.g. World Bank), bilateral aid donors, other UK Government Departments and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Secondments are typically for periods of between one and three years.

We cannot provide details of the cost of each secondment since we do not maintain these records centrally. Individual DFID departments are directly responsible for meeting or reimbursing any costs to the secondee's home organisation.

Developing Countries: Health Services

Chris McCafferty: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he plans to take to ensure that his Department's provision for strengthening government health systems in developing countries meets the needs of women and girls in those countries. [263163]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development's (DFID) approach to strengthening health systems seeks to diagnose critical problems and identify needs for strengthening in each country. This enables us to design the best response and set appropriate priorities, including assessing the needs of women and girls, their use of services and any barriers they face. There may be a need for targeted services or approaches to reach specific groups, such as reproductive health services for adolescent girls. DFID also recognises that monitoring the implementation and results of health systems strengthening needs a gender dimension to see if strategies are working.

Progress on strengthening health systems in poor countries is also vital if we are to accelerate progress towards achieving the maternal health millennium development goal. This is why, along with UN health agencies and a wide range of donors and country partners, DFID has championed the International Health Partnership designed to strengthen health systems and improve in-country donor coordination. To help ensure that investments in health systems reach women and children we are working with countries to help remove barriers that stop poor people using health services. This includes support to countries to remove health user fees so that services for children and pregnant women are free at the point of use.

Developing Countries: HIV Infection

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to assist in AIDS education in developing countries. [262641]

Mr. Thomas: The UK Government are providing £8.5 billion of support to education in developing countries over the 10-year period to 2015-16. A significant proportion of these funds will be used in African countries where HIV prevalence is high.

In most of our 22 priority countries, we are either supporting the development of strategies for educating young people about the threat of AIDS (e.g. in Mozambique) or encouraging countries to mainstream AIDS in their education sector plan (e.g. in Zambia). All of our 22 priority countries are addressing the impact of HIV in their education sector plans (i.e. on teacher attrition).

Education, including sexual and reproductive health education, is one of the most significant factors in preventing the spread of HIV in the next generation. The UK Government continue to work with partner governments to raise awareness about the importance of education as a means for preventing and mitigating the impact of the AIDS pandemic. The UK also provides substantial support for UNAIDS, UNICEF and UNFPA who are particularly active in AIDS education work.

Further information on DFID's HIV/AIDS strategy is available in 'Achieving Universal Access: the UK's Strategy for Halting and Reversing the Spread of HIV in the Developing World'. This is available in the Library of the House and on the DFID website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Developing Countries: Maternity Services

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent steps his Department has taken to encourage the establishment of political initiatives for the purpose of meeting the Millennium Development Goals on maternal health. [262905]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In September 2007, the Prime Minister and Prime Minister Stoltenberg of Norway and other world leaders launched the Global Campaign for the Health MDGs and the Network of Global Leaders on MDGs 4 and 5. The Network of Global Leaders includes several heads of state including President Kikwete of Tanzania, President Bachelet of Chile, and President Johnson-Sirleaf of Liberia.

In September 2008, Prime Minister Brown and World Bank President Robert Zoellick launched the High Level Task Force on Innovative International Financing for Health Systems. The task force was established in response to the call for an additional US$ 30 billion to save the lives of 3 million mothers and 7 million babies. Other task force members include finance minister Giulio Tremonti of Italy, and Foreign Ministers Bernard Kouchner of France and Stephen Smith of Australia.

Further information on the Global Campaign for the Health MDGs and the High Level Task Force is available on the DFID website:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Development Aid: EC Grants and Loans

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the value in euros was of the UK share of costs of development activities financed from the EC budget and attributed to his Department in each of the last five financial years; what his estimate of the figure for 2008-09 is; and on what date the figure for 2009-10 will be decided. [263562]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Final EC attribution figures are not available until two years after the actual spending year. The Department for International Development (DFID) received the following actual attribution share for the last five years.

	€ million
2006-07	1035
2005-06	1024
2004-05	1024
2003-04	1140
2002-03	1166

The estimate for financial year 2007-08 is €1040 million and the estimate for the current financial year 2008-09 is €1020 million. An actual figure for the next financial year, 2009-10, will not be decided until August 2011.

Economic Situation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* summits, *(b)* conferences and *(c)* seminars his Department has hosted since January 2008 at which a primary subject for discussion was the impact of the economic situation on matters within his Department's responsibility. [260147]

Mr. Thomas: Responding to the economic downturn is a top priority for the Department for International Development (DFID). Conference and seminars are some of the methods used to engage stakeholders in this work and ensure action is coordinated and effective.

DFID has held many meetings regarding the financial crisis and its effects upon vulnerable and developing countries in the last year, most notably the recent 9 to 10 March DFID Annual Conference.

In addition, Ministers and officials have regular engagements with other organisations including relevant Government Departments on a range of issues relating to the economy.

Palestinians: International Assistance

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1743W, on Palestinians: international assistance, what the monthly *(a)* salary and *(b)* other employment costs for the information officer employed by the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs for Gaza with support from his Department are; under which categories his Department's contribution towards the information officer will be spent; and what plans his Department has to support the role beyond April 2009. [263626]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Information Officer is a key post drawing together good quality reporting and analysis on humanitarian needs to enable donors to provide an effective response. The Department for International Development (DFID), at OCHA's request, provided funding for a short term three month post to cover a gap at OCHA while a long term secondee for this role was found. The secondee from another OCHA partner has now been engaged. The short-term post started on 23 February and will end on 22 May; DFID will not be providing further support after this date.

DFID provides funding for the staff costs associated with the short-term post. The daily rate for the Information Officer is £415. DFID also funds the costs of travel and expenses related to the short-term post, and up to £212 per day for accommodation and subsistence (as per standard UN rates) for 90 days in Jerusalem.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what agreement has been reached with the Palestinian Authority about mechanisms for the delivery and distribution of UK aid to Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [261826]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: At the Sharm El-Sheikh conference, the international donor community agreed that aid to Gaza should be delivered through existing international and regional mechanisms. Established mechanisms for aid delivery in Gaza include the United Nations Relief and Works Agency and the European Commission's PEGASE. The UK will continue to use these and also continue to fund non-governmental organisations with staff on the ground in Gaza.

The UK also supports people in Gaza through our financial assistance to the Palestinian Authority's budget of which 50 per cent. is spent in Gaza. Since January last year, we have provided £59 million to the Palestinian Authority through the World Bank Trust Fund and the European Commission's PEGASE mechanism. We will continue to stay in close dialogue with the Palestinian Authority on the most appropriate aid delivery mechanisms in Gaza.

Sri Lanka: Overseas Aid

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid has been provided by *(a)* the UK and *(b)* the EU to each region of Sri Lanka in the last (i) six months and (ii) two years; and what proportion of UK aid to Sri Lanka has been spent on (A) medical supplies, (B) food supplies, (C) housing and (D) education in the last 12 months. [262437]

Mr. Michael Foster: In the last six months, since September 2008, the Department for International Development (DFID) has allocated £5,000,000 of humanitarian aid to Sri Lanka.

Over the last two years (excluding the last six months) DFID has provided £1,781,740 of humanitarian aid to Sri Lanka. The vast majority of this humanitarian aid supported activities of vulnerable and internally displaced populations in the north and east of Sri Lanka.

The latest data on EU aid are from 2007, as official data for 2008 are not yet available. In 2007, EC aid payments to Sri Lanka were €39.34 million (£26.91 million at exchange rate £1 = €1.4615). The EU aid data are not available by region.

All DFID humanitarian contributions are provided non-earmarked to Agency appeals and therefore cannot be broken down into region or supplies; with the exception of the £250,000 committed to IOM and £250,000 committed to the WFP. These funds are specifically for the transportation of inter agency relief items to the internally displaced populations in the north of Sri Lanka.

Sudan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effect on the humanitarian situation in Sudan of the recent revocation of the operating licences of international non-governmental organisations; and if he will make a statement. [262841]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 20W, to my right hon. Friend the Member for Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill (Mr. Clarke).

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Bahrain: Politics and Government

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has received on the territorial sovereignty of the Kingdom of Bahrain; what assessment he has made of these representations; and if he will make a statement. [263401]

Bill Rammell: The Government received no representations regarding the territorial sovereignty of the Kingdom of Bahrain.

The Kingdom of Bahrain is a sovereign and independent state and a member of the UN. We refute any suggestion to the contrary.

Departmental Lost Property

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what property has been lost or stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what the estimated cost was of replacement of such property. [263107]

Gillian Merron: The information required is held separately in various Foreign and Commonwealth Office Departments, all of which hold records relating to various losses and thefts of both personal property and official furnishings, including IT equipment losses.

As this information is not held centrally, providing an accurate answer would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1239-40W, on departmental public expenditure, what estimate he has made of the additional sum each of his Department's overseas posts will require in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10 to maintain the purchasing power of each of their local budgets. [261940]

David Miliband: The information is as follows:

2008-09

As of December 2008, a total of 186 posts required additional funds to maintain the purchasing power of their local budget. The total value of this was £59.20 million.

The following table outlines the posts that required additional funds and the value of the funds required.

2009-10

The amount of additional funds required for each post will depend on the value of sterling against foreign currencies over the course of the year. We estimate that at current exchange rates, an additional £30 million will be needed to maintain purchasing power.

Post	*Total OPM impact as of December 2008 (£000)*
Abu Dhabi	395.75
Abuja	1,058.78
Accra	259.86
Addis Ababa	141.39
Algiers	339.34
Amman	593.00
Amsterdam	136.20
Anguilla	47.33
Ankara	401.95
Ashgabat	85.42
Asmara	29.12
Astana	146.23
Athens	631.70
Atlanta	176.66
Auckland	9.45
Baghdad	773.81
Bahrain	120.34
Baku	387.76
Bandar Seri Begawan	85.11
Bangkok	392.90
Banjul	81.62
Basra	368.96
Beijing	1,374.69
Beirut	310.97
Belgrade	453.89
Belmopan	170.75
Berlin	872.36
Berne	483.56
Bogota	375.72
Bordeaux	17.86
Boston	169.48
Brasilia	529.07
Bratislava	165.81
Bridgetown	219.30
Brisbane	26.91
Brussels	1,701.03
Bucharest	182.27
Budapest	316.09
Buenos Aires	624.21
Cairo	456.27
Canberra	300.18
Cape Town	25.50
Caracas	547.06
Castries	26.36
Chennai	65.57
Chicago	230.69
Chisinau	117.68
Chongqing	219.85
Colombo	486.48
Copenhagen	97.27
Dakar	84.86
Damascus	151.03
Dar Es Salaam	151.54
Dhaka	453.41
Doha	333.04
Dubai	737.09
Dublin	480.63
Dushanbe	90.29
Dusseldorf	586.74
Ekaterinburg	72.64
Freetown	120.24
Gaborone	16.64
Geneva	675.60
Georgetown	95.73
Grand Cayman	26.66
Grand Turk	61.32
Guangzhou	490.53
Guatemala City	136.62
Hanoi	216.46
Havana	173.65
Helsinki	337.74
Ho Chi Minh City	100.10
Hong Kong	743.04
Honiara	26.67
Houston	220.27
Islamabad	485.29
Istanbul	395.15
Jakarta	233.47
Jerusalem	361.28
Johannesburg	21.68
Kabul	1,446.03
Kampala	123.73
Karachi	148.22
Kathmandu	32.95
Khartoum	483.97
Kiev	346.55
Kigali	84.09
Kingston	477.20
Kinshasa	318.95
Kolkata	27.01
Kuala Lumpur	283.21
Kuwait	493.12
La Paz	125.01
Lagos	1,376.79
Lille	19.33
Lilongwe	81.43

Post	Total OPM impact as of December 2008 (£000)
Lima	253.19
Lisbon	333.44
Ljubljana	136.37
Los Angeles	331.05
Luanda	163.16
Lusaka	184.61
Luxembourg	92.36
Lyon	15.30
Madrid	1,384.83
Manila	406.68
Maputo	199.63
Marseille	0.47
Melbourne	50.05
Mexico City	301.34
Minsk	82.27
Montevideo	229.84
Montreal	16.92
Moscow	590.09
Mumbai	77.72
Munich	152.92
Muscat	328.45
Nairobi	742.07
New Delhi	525.75
New York BCG	594.17
New York UKMIS	647.20
Nicosia	404.10
Osaka	411.22
Oslo	125.11
Ottawa	277.22
Panama City	108.17
Paris	1,881.24
Perth	22.87
Phnom Penh	180.79
Plymouth	60.92
Port Louis	100.45
Port Moresby	95.43
Port of Spain	251.69
Prague	473.18
Pretoria	76.24
Pristina	156.59
Quito	115.63
Rabat	331.98
Rangoon	222.78
Riga	159.62
Rio de Janeiro	259.49
Riyadh	877.42
Rome	1,295.10
San Francisco	196.27
San Jose	97.86
Sanaa	302.14
Santiago	188.77
Santo Domingo	51.52
Sao Paulo	334.88
Sarajevo	182.57
Shanghai	530.04
Singapore	469.54
Skopje	250.24
Sofia	289.02
St. Georges	6.73
St. Johns	11.45
St. Petersburg	259.26
Stockholm	265.15
Strasbourg	8.37
Suva	87.29
Sydney	90.33
Taipei	232.49
Tallinn	158.16
Tashkent	92.14
Tbilisi	221.92
Tehran	773.40
Tel Aviv	577.53
The Hague	384.80
Tirana	76.69
Tokyo	2,055.56
Toronto	107.69
Tortola	36.88
Tripoli	392.85
Tunis	151.92
Ulaanbaatar	46.07
Valletta	131.26
Vancouver	39.23
Vienna	659.49
Vilnius	158.88
Warsaw	539.53
Washington	1,365.97
Wellington	27.92
Yaounde	109.04
Yerevan	125.08
Zagreb	236.49
Total	59,226.09

Departmental Security

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many breaches of *(a)* physical and *(b)* data security occurred at each of his Department's (i) domestic and (ii) overseas premises in each year for which figures are available. [262893]

Gillian Merron: The information required is held separately in various Foreign and Commonwealth Office departments and embassies, all of which hold records that relate to breaches of physical and data security at home and overseas.

As this information is not held centrally, we are not able to provide an answer without incurring disproportionate cost.

Diplomatic Service: Finance

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1198W, on diplomatic services, from what budget the funding for special representatives and special envoys to particular countries and regions is drawn. [263048]

Gillian Merron: Some special representatives have been serving members of the diplomatic service with regional expertise. Their salary and administrative costs have been met by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO).

Where external specialists have been appointed to a special representative role, they have normally been recruited on short-term contracts funded by the FCO.

Other special envoys (for example those appointed by the Prime Minister) are normally unpaid but may have travel expenses refunded by the FCO.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 27 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1198W, on diplomatic services, what the annual cost to the public purse of each special representative and special envoy is; and if he will make a statement. [263049]

Gillian Merron: Only one of the special representatives listed in the answer of 27 February 2009 is still serving in that role.

The special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan is a member of the diplomatic service in senior civil service pay band 3. The pay range for civil servants in pay band 3 is currently £99,960 to £205,000.

Other special envoys (for example those appointed by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister) are normally unpaid but may have travel expenses refunded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

European Union

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on visits by its staff to Brussels in 2007-08; and how many such visits were made. [244057]

Gillian Merron: Between January 2008 and December 2008, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff made the following visits:

156 individual journeys, UK to Brussels or Brussels to UK, were made by air at a total cost of £33,247.

3044 journeys were made to Brussels and Paris on "Eurostar" between January 2008 and December 2008 at a total cost of £454,534. The information held does not allow us to separate "Eurostar" travel between the two destinations.

The FCO changed travel provider in January 2008. Breaking down travel expenditure to these destinations before this date would incur disproportionate cost.

Iran: Bahrain

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the sovereignty and independence of the Kingdom of Bahrain. [263452]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 13 March 2009]:* The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) noted recent media reports that an adviser to the Supreme Leader in Iran had claimed Iranian sovereignty over the Kingdom of Bahrain. The FCO welcomes the fact that the Iranian Foreign Ministry has made clear this is not the view of the Iranian government.

The UK's view is clear and firm, and we made this public in a press statement at the time: the Kingdom of Bahrain is a sovereign and independent state and a member of the UN. We refute any suggestion to the contrary.

Iran: Banks

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department plans to take in response to the Financial Action Task Force's statement of 25 February 2009 on Iran; and if he will make a statement. [260999]

David Miliband: The Government's response to the Financial Action Taskforce's statement of 25 February 2009 on Iran is led by the Treasury. I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given on 9 March 2009 by my hon. Friend Ian Pearson, Minister of State at the Treasury, in response to his question of 4 March 2009, to the Chancellor of the Exchequer on this matter, *Official Report*, column 100-01W. The response reads:

'The Treasury has issued an advisory notice to all businesses regulated under the Money Laundering Regulations 2007 and all other persons authorised by the Financial Services Authority alerting them to the high-risk nature of transactions with Iran due to the serious deficiencies in its systems to combat money-laundering and terrorist financing. The Treasury is also actively considering what further steps may be necessary to ensure the UK financial sector is protected from this risk, and is in discussion with international partners.'

Iran: Sanctions

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on the application of financial sanctions against *(a)* individuals, *(b)* entities and *(c)* organisations involved in Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile programme; and if he will make a statement. [261002]

David Miliband: The Government fully support the application of financial and other sanctions against individuals, entities and organisations that are involved with, or support, Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes. Five UN Security Council resolutions (UNSCRs) require Iran to suspend enrichment related activities, three of which impose sanctions. The UNSCRs require states to freeze assets owned or controlled by individuals, entities and organisations involved with, or supporting, nuclear activities in Iran. They must also exercise vigilance over Iranian banks.

The Government also strongly support the Common Position and Council Regulation adopted by the EU which implemented UNSCR 1803 in full. Indeed, the EU went beyond the UN by extending financial vigilance against Iran, including a further autonomous asset freeze on individuals and entities involved in Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile programmes, but not specifically listed by the UN.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to reply to the letter of 5 December 2008 from the hon. Member for Forest of Dean on wild tigers, reference FD4668. [260389]

Gillian Merron: The hon. Member's letter was replied to on 11 March 2009.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take at the United Nations in respect of the reported rocket and mortar attack on the western Negev by Islamic Jihad on 26 February 2009; and if he will make a statement. [263243]

Bill Rammell: The UK has been consistent in its condemnation of all rocket attacks on Israel.

We are committed to finding a solution to the conflict in the Middle East that allows Israel to feel secure in the region, alongside a viable Palestinian state.

Morocco and Israel: EU External Trade

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on the labelling of produce originating from territories occupied by *(a)* Morocco and *(b)* Israel. [260842]

Bill Rammell: On the labelling of produce originating from territories occupied by Israel, various Government departments such as the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and the Food Standards Agency are working together to provide retailers with clearer voluntary guidance on labelling best practice for produce sourced from the occupied Palestinian territories, that comply with our European Commission and World Trade Organisation obligations.

There are no comparable guidelines in place for commercial products originating from the disputed territory of Western Sahara. The Government, however, maintain the position that the Government of Morocco, as the 'de facto' administering power of Western Sahara, is obliged under international law to ensure that economic activities carried out under their administration do not adversely affect the interests of the people of Western Sahara.

There are currently only two UK vessels operating in the waters off Western Sahara under the EU-Morocco Fisheries Agreement. All the fish caught are landed in Dakhla, Western Sahara and sold through the local market.

Shanghai World Expo

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when work to construct the British pavilion for the Shanghai World Expo 2010 will *(a)* commence and *(b)* be completed. [263503]

Bill Rammell: A ceremony was held in Shanghai on 12 March 2009 to mark the start of building work. The pavilion will be ready before the soft opening of the Expo, scheduled for 1 April 2010.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British businesses will be participating in the British pavilion for the Shanghai World Expo 2010. [263505]

Bill Rammell: Five companies have so far signed up as core sponsors: AstraZeneca, Barclays, BP, Diageo and GKN. We expect a large number of British companies to participate in a programme of business-focussed events during the six months of the Expo.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs from which streams the funding for the British pavilion for the Shanghai World Expo 2010 is being drawn. [263506]

Bill Rammell: Funding will come from the public and private sectors including: Foreign and Commonwealth Office, UK Trade and Investment, British Council, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, Department for Culture, Media and Sport, Department for Communities and Local Government, English Regional Development Agencies and core sponsors AstraZeneca, Barclays, BP, Diageo and GKN.

Sri Lanka: Armed Conflict

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps the Government have taken together with the international community to encourage the Sri Lankan Government to respect human rights in its conflict with the Tamil Tigers. [262965]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 12 March 2009]:* We have repeatedly called on both sides in the conflict to abide by their obligations under international humanitarian law. On 3 February 2009, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary released a joint statement with US Secretary of State Clinton on this matter. On 23 February 2009, the EU released a statement calling on the Sri Lankan authorities to take decisive action to tackle human rights abuses, to guarantee press freedom and to disarm paramilitary groups in government controlled areas.

The UK, both independently and as part of the EU, regularly addresses the human rights situation in Sri Lanka and plans to do so again at the UN Human Rights Council which will be in session from 2-27 March 2009.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps the Government have taken to support internationally the safety of civilians in the ongoing conflict between the Sri Lankan Government and the Tamil Tigers. [263080]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 12 March 2009]:* As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has made clear, our priority is for the safety of civilians trapped in the fighting in northern Sri Lanka. The Department for International Development have provided funding for two internationally mandated protection agencies: the International Committee of the Red Cross which assists civilians in the conflict zone; and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees which assists Internally Displaced Persons who have fled the conflict.

At the highest levels, we have repeatedly called on all parties to the conflict to respect their obligations under international humanitarian law and ensure the safety of civilians at all times. We continue to raise the safety of civilians with international partners and the Sri Lankan Government. In a joint statement with US Secretary Clinton on 2 February 2009, my right hon. Friend urged both sides to respond appropriately to the deteriorating humanitarian situation by allowing the wounded to receive medical treatment, for civilians to leave the conflict area and for unrestricted access for humanitarian agencies.

On 23 February 2009 the EU called for an immediate ceasefire to allow humanitarian aid to be safely delivered and for civilians to leave the conflict area. We welcome the recent visit by John Holmes, the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, and hope this leads to an improvement in the situation for civilians on the ground.

Tamils: Resettlement

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Sri Lankan Government on the conditions of resettlement camps established for Tamil refugees; and what assessment he has made of their compatibility with international standards. [261929]

Bill Rammell: We have had regular discussions with the Sri Lankan Government on the camps being set up for internally displaced persons (IDPs).

We welcome the recent statement by the Government of Sri Lanka regarding the temporary nature of IDP camps. We welcome the commitment to return 20 per cent. of people to their place of origin by the end of April 2009 and the remaining 80 per cent. by the end of 2009.

We are aware that certain humanitarian agencies have been given access to camps for IDPs. We welcome the recent visit to Sri Lanka by John Holmes, UN Under-Secretary for Humanitarian Affairs, and hope this leads to an improvement in the humanitarian situation in the camps.

We continue to press for unrestricted access to all IDP sites for the humanitarian community, including donors, and we are working with the Government and international agencies to ensure that all IDP sites meet international standards, including freedom of movement and protection.

Thailand: Human Rights

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government plan to make a financial contribution to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights' 2009 programme in Thailand; and if he will make a statement. [261928]

Mr. Michael Foster: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for International Development (DFID) will not contribute directly to this programme, but has contributed £2.5 million in voluntary, un-earmarked funding to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in 2008-09. This is available for OHCHR's programmes across the world including those in Thailand. We expect to make a similar contribution next financial year.

Venezuela: Anti-Semitism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 27 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1210W, on Venezuela: anti-Semitism, if he will place in the Library a copy of the letters written by HM Ambassador in Caracas to *(a)* the synagogue's rabbi and *(b)* to the leader of the Jewish community in Venezuela; and if he will make a statement. [263260]

Gillian Merron: I have today placed a copy of both letters in the Library of the House.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the attack on the Sinaan Mordejay Community Centre in Caracas on 26 February 2009; and if he will make a statement. [263261]

Gillian Merron: A pipe bomb was thrown at the Sinaan Mordejay Community Centre on 26 February 2009. While there was no major damage and no injuries, we are concerned by a number of reports of anti-Semitism in Venezuela in recent months. We will continue to monitor the situation closely.

Western Sahara: Politics and Government

Ms Katy Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which state the Government recognise as the administering power in Western Sahara. [260958]

Bill Rammell: Morocco exercises 'de facto' administrative control over part of the territory, but the UK regards the status of the territory as undetermined pending a negotiated outcome providing for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara. The UK continues to support UN-led efforts currently underway to resolve the ongoing dispute.

TREASURY

Banks: Finance

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what conditions his Department has put on banks receiving money from his Department; what discussions he has had with banks since January 2009 on this issue; what response was received from each bank; which banks have sought financial assistance from his Department; and if he will make a statement. [259048]

Ian Pearson: As part of its investment, the Government have agreed a range of conditions with banks accessing the recapitalisation scheme. For more detail, I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by the Chancellor on 13 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 540-41.

Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings and discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with

previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings and discussions.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which *(a)* executive and *(b)* non-executive board members at each bank which has received support from the public purse in the last two years were in post prior to the provision of that support; and what remuneration each received in the last year for which information is available. [262736]

Ian Pearson: Published information on this topic would be set out in the bank's audited annual reports.

Mr. Neil Turner: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Government plans to prevent further off-shoring of financial services by those banks in which the Government has a large stake. [263270]

Ian Pearson: These are commercial matters for the boards of each bank.

Banks: Pensions

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what arrangements his Department put in place to examine the pension arrangements in place for directors of banks for which public funding has been provided at the time of provision of that funding. [260908]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 5 March 2009]:* As part of their investment, the Government have agreed a range of conditions with banks accessing the recapitalisation scheme, including restrictions on bonuses for senior executives—both for 2008 when the Government expect no cash bonuses to be paid to board members, and for remuneration policy going forward, where incentive schemes will be reviewed and linked to long-term value creation, taking account of risk, and restricting the potential for "rewards for failure".

UKFI has been set up to manage the Treasury's shareholdings in recapitalised banks. UKFI has a role in scrutinising the non-lending recapitalisation conditions, including on remuneration policy, to protect the interest of the taxpayer as a shareholder.

Additionally, banks participating in the Government's Asset Protection Scheme (APS) will have to develop a sustainable long-term remuneration policy. This means reviewing policies and implementing new policies consistent with the FSA's code of remuneration practice announced on 26 February.

Northern Rock and Bradford & Bingley have their own conditions on remuneration—these are set out in their respective Shareholder Relationship Framework documents.

Banks: Regulation

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Leeds, East of 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1618-19W, on banks: finance, if he will publish on his Department's website a copy of each of the placing and open offer agreements referred to in the answer. [257343]

Ian Pearson: The placing and open offer agreements for the recapitalisation of RBS, HBOS and Lloyds, which were deposited in the Libraries of both Houses of Parliament on 18 November 2008, and were also posted on the Treasury's website on 20 February 2009.

Banks: Risk Management

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment has been made by the Financial Services Authority of the effectiveness of risk management in banks which are in receipt of public money. [256983]

Ian Pearson: These assessments are matters for the Financial Services Authority.

Banks: USA

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the US administration on the eligibility of UK banks with US subsidiaries for assistance under the troubled assets relief programme and its successor schemes. [261625]

Ian Pearson: Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide variety of organisations and international partners. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

CCLA Investment Management

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether deposits by registered charities, churches and local authorities, whose funds are managed by CCLA Investment Management Ltd, are *(a)* guaranteed and *(b)* underwritten by the Government. [263128]

Ian Pearson: Protection for retail deposits is provided by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS), an independent body, established under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. The extent to which the FSCS is able to provide protection to churches and registered charities both in general and in this specific case depends on a range of factors including whether the person or organisation whose funds are managed is an eligible claimant under FSCS rules, the nature of the regulated activities carried on by the firm were it to be in default and the amount and nature of the claim that is made.

Churches and registered charities may be eligible claimants depending on the nature of the organisation and its size. Local authorities are not eligible to claim compensation under the rules of the FSCS.

The FSCS rules are made by the FSA (and can be found on its website www.fsa.gov.uk). Guidance may also be found on the FSCS website at:

www.fscs.org.uk

Christmas

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether it is his Department's policy to offer staff *(a)* additional leave entitlement for Christmas shopping and *(b)* Christmas bonus payments. [262800]

Angela Eagle: It is not HM Treasury policy to offer staff additional leave entitlement for Christmas shopping or Christmas bonus payments.

Currencies

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many local currencies, other than the Lewes pound, are circulating in the UK; what assessment he has made of their effect on local economies; and if he will make a statement. [263406]

Ian Pearson: No assessment has been made by the Treasury on local voucher schemes, such as the one currently being operated in Lewes.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield of 28 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 584-85W, on the departmental internet, how many hits each of the websites maintained by his Department received in each of the last 12 months. [262833]

Angela Eagle: Statistics that we hold for each website maintained by the Department, in each of the last 12 months are as follows:

Unique visitors

	2008						
	Mar	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*
www.hm-treasury.gov.uk	266,462	236,654	222,414	212,796	164,583	126,319	80,548
www.isb.gov.uk	5,136	5,395	6,249	6,359	4,574	3,796	2,092
www.ges.gov.uk	5,505	5,380	4,805	4,786	4,183	3,829	6,182
www.gsr.gov.uk	17,065	25,158	27,236	23,082	20,547	17,065	12,119
www.euro.gov.uk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
www.financialinclusion-taskforce.org.uk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
www.financial-reporting.gov.uk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
http://thegfp.treasury.gov.uk	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

	Oct	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Total*
www.hm-treasury.gov.uk	465,585	245,986	142,120	173,607	152,542	2,489,616
www.isb.gov.uk	4,235	4,506	3,413	3,800	3,973	53,528
www.ges.gov.uk	9,060	6,208	4,860	7,854	7,801	64,948
www.gsr.gov.uk	9,583	9,269	8,324	9,379	8,851	187,678
www.euro.gov.uk	17,541	16,301	17,032	20,908	15,472	[1]—
www.financialinclusion-taskforce.org.uk	985	353	1,022	1,173	1,156	[1]—
www.financial-reporting.gov.uk	4,463	4,634	3,439	3,709	2,879	[1]—
http://thegfp.treasury.gov.uk	—	—	—	—	—	[2]21,677

[1]. Statistics available only from October 2008.
[2] Monthly breakdowns unavailable.

Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent edition of HM Revenue and Customs' Euro Handbook. [250519]

Ian Pearson: Copies are available in the Library.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when *(a)* the HM Revenue and Customs' and *(b)* the Valuation Office Agency's euro changeover plan was last updated; and if he will place a copy of each in the Library. [250522]

Ian Pearson: The HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) and Valuation Office Agency's Euro Changeover Plans were last updated in 2006. Copies are available in the Library.

Equitable Life: Compensation

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the planned timetable is for establishing the ex-gratia payment scheme for older people who have lost money with Equitable Life. [263139]

Ian Pearson: The Government intend to set up an ex-gratia payment scheme for those who have suffered a disproportionate impact that can pay out as swiftly as possible. The Government will work on the practical issues in parallel with the work that it has asked Sir John Chadwick to undertake. Until the work is complete, it will not possible to make an estimate of how long it will take to make payments under the scheme. The Government will keep the House updated and report back on progress at regular intervals.

Income Tax

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the minimum level of *(a)* weekly and *(b)* annual household income is at which income tax first becomes payable for (i) a single pensioner, (ii) a pensioner couple, (iii) a working-age single person, (iv) a working-age couple, (v) a lone parent with one child and (vi) two parents with one child. [262019]

Mr. Timms: Net tax liability, and the effective tax rate paid, is calculated by setting the tax credits and child benefit payments a family might receive against any income tax and national insurance contributions paid

by them. As a result of the financial support provided by tax credits four out of 10 families in the whole population now pay no net tax.

Tax credits mean that, including national insurance contributions, from January 2009:

a single pensioner pays no net tax until they are earning at least £9,030 if they are aged 65 to 74 or £9,180 if they are aged 75 and over;

a pensioner couple pays no net tax until one partner is earning at least £9,030 if they are aged 65 to 74 or £9,180 if they are aged 75 and over;

a working-age single person, aged over 25 and working full-time pays no net tax until they are earning at least £9,780;

a working-age single-earner couple, with the earner aged over 25 and working full-time pays no net tax until they are earning at least £12,300; and

a lone parent with one child or a single-earner family of two parents with one child pays no net tax until they are earning at least £17,550.

Lehman Brothers

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of UK citizens who held Lehman Brothers-backed securities at the time of the bank's collapse; whether he has commissioned research on the ways in which such products were marketed in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [260299]

Ian Pearson: The Financial Services Authority (FSA) estimates that around 6,000 people in the UK hold retail investment products fully backed by securities issued by Lehman Brothers, based on data provided by the firms involved in marketing them. FSA rules require firms marketing such products to explain fully all the risks involved. Investors who believe risks were not properly explained to them have the right to complain; first to the firm which sold the product and, if they are not satisfied with the firm's response, to the Financial Ombudsman Service.

Quantitative Easing

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date the Government implemented its policy on quantitative easing; and how much funding has been provided through using quantitative easing to date. [264041]

Ian Pearson: In an exchange of letters between the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Governor of the Bank of England on 3 March 2009, the Chancellor of the Exchequer authorised the independent Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to use the Asset Purchase Facility for monetary policy purposes. The Monetary Policy Committee announced a programme of asset purchases financed by the issuance of central bank reserves on 5 March. This is set out at:

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/publications/news/2009/019.htm

WORK AND PENSIONS

Jobseeker's Allowance

15. **Stephen Hammond:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobseeker's allowance claimants there were in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Wimbledon constituency on the latest date for which figures are available. [263328]

Mr. McNulty: In January 2009 there were 1,282,645 jobseeker's allowance claimants in the UK and 906 in Wimbledon constituency. These are based on seasonally unadjusted figures.

21. **Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobseeker's allowance claimants there were in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* West Chelmsford constituency on the latest date for which figures are available. [263334]

Mr. McNulty: In January 2009 there were 1,282,645 jobseeker's allowance claimants in the UK and 1,544 in West Chelmsford constituency. These numbers are based on seasonally unadjusted figures.

24. **Mr. Goodwill:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the change in the number of jobseeker's allowance claimants resident in *(a)* Scarborough and Whitby constituency and *(b)* the UK was between 2007 and 2008. [263337]

Mr. McNulty: In December 2008 there were 362,960 more people claiming jobseeker's allowance in the UK than in December 2007, and 600 more in Scarborough and Whitby. These numbers are based on seasonally unadjusted figures.

Note:

This is the seasonally unadjusted figure for the UK and has been used for comparison purposes as seasonally adjusted figures are not available for parliamentary constituencies. The headline change reported for the UK is 351,500.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people who will have been claiming jobseeker's allowance for over 12 months in October 2009. [263322]

Mr. McNulty: While we do not predict future levels of unemployment, or of people unemployed for over a year, we are planning for the impact of higher numbers of long-term unemployed in the coming months.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobseeker's allowance claimants there were in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Banbury constituency on the latest date for which figures are available. [263324]

Mr. McNulty: In January 2009 there were 1,282,645 jobseeker's allowance claimants in the UK and 1,505 in Banbury constituency. These are based on seasonally unadjusted figures.

Incapacity Benefit

16. **Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assistance the Government is making available to existing long-term incapacity benefit claimants. [263329]

Jonathan Shaw: We have already invested heavily to support existing incapacity benefit customers into work, by ensuring they can volunteer for any appropriate back to work support available in Pathways to Work. Our recent White Paper announced a strong package of new initiatives to provide further support to this group, including pilots of new innovative approaches such as the 'invest to save' pathfinders recommended by David Freud.

Child Maintenance

17. **Mr. Spring:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the appropriateness of the range of allowable deductions from non-resident parents' income on which child maintenance is calculated. [263330]

Kitty Ussher: The current child maintenance scheme, which applies to maintenance applications effective on or after 3 March 2003, is designed to be simple for parents to understand and straightforward to administer. It is intended to strike a fair balance between the needs of children and the reasonable expectation that non-resident parents are left with sufficient money to live on.

To that end, the range of allowable deductions that either parent can ask to be taken into account when calculating the maintenance liability is necessarily limited and there are no plans to revisit the range of allowable deductions in the current scheme.

New Deal

18. **John Howell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for the contracting process for the flexible new deal. [263331]

Mr. McNulty: For the procurement of flexible New Deal in the 14 Phase 1 contract packages, DWP will let contracts with a single lead entity. The 'Lead' entity will be accountable for overall delivery but may choose to subcontract out all, part or none of the provision. For Flexible New Deal a two stage tendering process was adopted.

The use of a two-stage 'restricted' procedure, involves an initial Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) stage and then the issue of Invitation to Tenders (ItT) to those short-listed at PQQ stage. This helps to keep the amount of work, both for DWP and for potential suppliers within manageable limits, as we have a high level of interest. The two-stage process brings the dual benefits of maintaining competition and excluding (either voluntarily or directly) those organisations that have no realistic capacity to deliver a contract. This process includes a separate financial capability assessment at both stages of the evaluation process.

The PQQ stage includes a number of questions to assess which bidders appear to have the strongest capacity to proceed to tender. The second stage tenders are evaluated based on the optimum combination of quality and price.

Phase One FND procurement is now proceeding to a revised schedule and has taken account of the current economic climate and potential for volume increase. Short listed organisations have been given time to impact these changes on their tenders. We expect to identify preferred bidders during April and announce contracts by the end of May 2009. We still aim to begin delivery in October 2009. We plan for FND Phase Two to commence in spring 2009 and details will be published on the DWP website.

Medical Assistance

19. **Mr. David Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assistance his Department makes available to those with a medical condition which requires them to incur extra costs to maintain a temperature level in their homes. [263332]

Jonathan Shaw: Some people with a medical condition will qualify for help through disability benefits and the disability premium in income-related benefits. These are awarded in recognition of the extra costs, which can include heating, which disabled people may incur. Those entitled to disability premiums will also receive additional payments during periods of very cold weather.

Just over half of all people with a limiting long-standing illness, impairment or disability in Britain are over 60 years of age, and will qualify for winter fuel payments which provide a significant contribution to higher winter fuel costs.

Individual Budgets

20. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people in possession of an individual budget. [263333]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department of Health ran an Individual Budget Pilot Programme from December 2005 to December 2007 in 13 local authorities in England. Following the pilots, many of the people involved continue to use an individual budget and individual budgets are being increasingly implemented by councils.

The last figures collected (Commission for Social Care Inspection, Annual Report 2007-08) showed that as at March 2008, nearly 4,800 people held an individual budget, with just under half having a direct payment as part of the arrangement.

Jobcentre Plus

22. **Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what further plans his Department has to reform Jobcentre Plus; and if he will make a statement. [263335]

Mr. McNulty: The Department has no current plans to reform the way that Jobcentre Plus is organised.

Disability Living Allowance

23. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to make blind people eligible for the higher rate mobility component of disability living allowance. [263336]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government are supportive of the aim to extend the higher rate mobility component to severely sight impaired people. We have had extensive discussions with the Royal National Institute of Blind People, MPs and others on the issue and these continue.

Departmental Bank Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with which banks his Department has or has held contracts for the provision of financial advice, for the financial year 2008-09. [262754]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department's banking contracts for the financial year 2008-09 facilitate the payment of customers' benefits and pensions. On one occasion this year we have also commissioned specialist advice from Citibank.

Pension Credit

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in Lancashire are in receipt of pension credit. [263319]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In Lancashire 55,320 households, 68,130 individuals are in receipt of Pension Credit.

Departmental Data Protection

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what auditing his Department undertakes to ensure that IT security policies are being followed; and on how many occasions *(a)* IT security policies have been breached by employees and *(b)* a member of staff has been sanctioned for a breach of such policies in the last 12 months; [259833]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's IT security hierarchy; [259834]

(3) what scanning for vulnerabilities his Department conducts of each of its IT devices; what method is used for IT device scans; and how many vulnerabilities have been detected as a result of such scans in the last 12 months; [259835]

(4) what IT security policy his Department has; what procedures are in place to ensure the policy is being followed; what his Department's policy is on encryption of data when it leaves departmental premises; and what sanctions are in place for failure to comply with this policy. [259846]

Jonathan Shaw: Information is a key asset to Government and its correct handling is vital to the delivery of public services and to the integrity of HM Government. The Security Policy Framework, the Data Handling Report and the National Information Assurance Strategy produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic framework for protecting information that Government handle and put in place a set of mandatory measures to which Departments must adhere.

This Department is compliant with the security policies contained in the Government Security Policy Framework including those for information security, assurance and the encryption of data.

The Department's arrangements to ensure compliance with these measures comprise a system of self-assessment, accreditation, assurance reporting, audit and review.

Depending upon the circumstances of particular incidents involving staff, a range of sanctions are available to the Department, including disciplinary or administrative action and, in extreme or persistent cases, termination of employment and, if appropriate, criminal proceedings. Information is not collected centrally on the occasions when IT security policies have been broken by employees, and it would involve disproportionate cost to obtain these details.

The Department does not publish its security hierarchy, as this could pose a threat to the security of information by exposing vulnerabilities which could be exposed for unlawful purposes.

Similarly, it is not in the interest of the security of the Department, or that of the public, to disclose detailed information pertaining to electronic breaches of security of the Department's IT systems. Disclosing such information could enable criminals and those who would attempt to cause disruptive threats to the Department to deduce how to conduct attacks and therefore potentially enhance their capability to carry out such attacks.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of letters sent by his Department were given to *(a)* the Royal Mail and *(b)* another postal services provider for delivery in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [259969]

Jonathan Shaw: DWP postal volumes delivered by Royal Mail Group over the past 12 months were approximately 200 million items to customers; this was 67 per cent. of all DWP postal services.

DWP postal volumes delivered by other postal providers over the same period are as follows:

UK Mail—volume 95 million items via second class mail to DWP customers; 32 per cent of all DWP postal services; the final mile is still delivered by Royal Mail;

Spring Global Mail—volume 2 million items for international mail to DWP customers; less than 1 per cent. of all DWP postal volumes.

DWP remains committed to using Royal Mail postal services and we have developed a range of joint initiatives to further enhance our relationship and deliver postal efficiencies. DWP is also monitoring the developing postal marketplace for best value for money opportunities for taxpayers.

Departmental Translation Services

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many language translators are employed in each of his Department's executive agencies; and what the cost of translating services provided by such people was in the latest period for which information is available. [257157]

Jonathan Shaw: The DWP provides a range of language translation services for customers across Great Britain (as Northern Ireland is excluded), namely:

1. Face to face

2. Telephone.

3. Translating by a range of services which includes the translation of departmental information leaflets and other documents that are provided to customers in a range of ethnic languages, audio and Braille, as well as all publications for Welsh speaking customers living in Wales.

4. We are also able to offer an ad hoc service to convert documents into easy read format.

DWP has 154 staff with foreign language speaking skills which are used alongside their normal duties and for which they receive an annual allowance of £730 per annum. There are also 557 staff with foreign language speaking skills who provide additional cover and receive an annual allowance of £310 per annum. These services are used on an ad hoc basis and their overall cost is not maintained on a central basis.

The Department routinely offers a bilingual service to customers living in Wales, generally delivered by members of staff, without any allowances being paid to them.

NDPB's have access to our frameworks but we do not hold centrally any data relating to their specific spend, if any, via these services. To ascertain this would incur disproportionate cost.

The information requested is given in the following table:

Type of service	*Number of suppliers*	*2007-08 spend[1] (£ million)*
Face to face translation	5	1.7
Telephone interpreting	1	1.8
Ethnic translation (documents)	6	0.135
Welsh language	2	0.066
Braille	3	0.045
Audio formats	3	0.036
Easy read documents	1	[2]

[1] 2007-08 is the last full financial year of recorded data that we can provide.
[2] Not available as included in creative design costs.

Disability Living Allowance: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many nationals of each non-UK EU member state were in receipt of disability living allowance at each rate in Hemel Hempstead in the most recent period in which figures are available. [263235]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is not collected centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Invalidity Benefits: Costs

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the additional cost is estimated to be of the new rates of invalidity allowance in support of the alignment of the rates of incapacity benefit and employment and support allowance in the first 12 months in which they have effect; what the estimated average increase in the relevant benefit payment to claimants will be as a result of the alignment; and what that increase will be expressed as a percentage. [259126]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 2 March 2009]:* The White Paper, 'Raising expectations and increasing support', announced measures to smooth the transition to employment and support allowance for existing incapacity benefit customers by starting to align their benefit rates with employment and support allowance rates from April 2009. To begin the process of achieving alignment with employment and support allowance, those on contributory incapacity benefit with an age addition, including former invalidity benefit customers, will see their overall benefit increased in April 2009 by half of the Rossi index[1], rather than by the full Rossi index. Customers in receipt of severe disablement allowance with an age addition will receive an increase equivalent to the full Rossi increase.

In 2009-10 there will be an estimated 660,000 customers receiving incapacity benefit with age additions[2]. As a result of the White Paper changes, from April 2009 the benefit rate for these cases will be on average £3.20 per week higher than in 2008-09, an increase of 3.4 per cent.[3] For example, those on incapacity benefit with the higher age addition, and no other additions, will see their benefit increase from £102.25 per week in 2008-09 to £105.45 per week in 2009-10.

Despite the increase in benefit rates for people with age additions, the total expenditure on these cases is expected to fall by nearly £180 million from 2008-09 to 2009-10 due to an expected reduction in the number of people claiming incapacity benefits[4].

[1] The Retail Prices Index less housing costs.

[2] Including those on invalidity benefit and severe disablement allowance.

[3] This excludes other additions that can be payable for some people claiming incapacity benefits such as adult dependency increases and child dependency increases.

[4] Numbers are forecast to fall because employment and support allowance replaced incapacity benefits in October 2008.

Natural Gas: Engineers

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1942W, on natural gas: engineers, what performance indicator the Health and Safety Executive has set for Capita's performance in promoting awareness of the new gas safety council; and when the Executive plans to publish its assessment of progress against this objective. [252079]

Jonathan Shaw: Capita has a Key Performance Indicator (KPI) to achieve at least 40 per cent. unprompted brand recognition of the New Gas Safe Register™ among gas consumers by the end of October 2009, rising to 60 per cent. by the end of October 2010 and 75 per cent. by the end of October 2011. A further KPI requires annual increases over the first five years of the contract in gas consumer awareness of gas safety risks and the need to use only a Gas Safe registered engineer for gas work. The KPIs will be measured through consumer surveys with the results published as soon as possible.

Occupational Therapy: Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people required to promote occupational therapy in social care in the next 10 years. [263615]

Phil Hope: I have been asked to reply.

No assessment has been made centrally as to the number of occupational therapists required, as social care employers are best placed to assess the social care needs of their local populations.

Effective workforce planning is about delivering the best possible care by ensuring high quality staff with the right skills are in the right place at the right time.

Social Security Benefits: Disabled

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were receiving disability benefit in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland constituency in each of the last five years. [263798]

Jonathan Shaw: Information is not available about the number of people who are registered disabled and receiving disability benefits. The available information is in the following table.

Number of attendance allowance and disability living allowance recipients

	Attendance allowance		*Disability living allowance*	
As at August each year	*Copeland parliamentary constituency*	*Cumbria*	*Copeland parliamentary constituency*	*Cumbria*
2004	1,940	15,980	4,090	25,030
2005	2,010	16,650	4,230	25,820
2006	2,030	17,190	4,370	26,500
2007	2,090	17,840	4,520	27,310
2008	2,180	18,110	4,570	27,780

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
3. Figures are published on the DWP website: www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which trade unions are recognised in his Department. [262081]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department for Work and Pensions recognises three trade unions, the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS), FDA and Prospect.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children in Care

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will bring forward measures to assist local authorities in reducing the number of placements for looked-after children. [262992]

Beverley Hughes: Through the White Paper "Care Matters: Time for Change" and the Children and Young Persons Act 2008 the Government have put in place a range of measures to improve the placement stability of looked after children and raise the quality of placement provision.

Through the Fostering Changes training programme and the Multi-dimensional Treatment Foster Care and Social Pedagogy pilots we are taking action to help improve the range of support and skills for foster carers and residential workers to help them meet the needs of looked after children and prevent placement breakdown.

We are also helping local authorities improve their commissioning arrangements for LAC placements through the Commissioning Support programme which will run until 2011.

Children: Databases

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many of the 17 early adopter local authorities for ContactPoint raised concerns about shielding in their most recent monthly assessment. [254531]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 5 February 2009]:* The first operational stage of ContactPoint delivery began on 26 January. This allows all local authorities to start to shield a small proportion of records on ContactPoint. This precautionary measure is appropriate for the records of children who would be at risk of significant harm if their whereabouts was disclosed. This might include children in particularly vulnerable circumstances, such as children from families on police protection schemes; where one parent has been the victim of domestic violence or abuse; or, in certain cases, where the child has been adopted.

We are working closely with 17 early adopter local authorities to identify and help them work through any issues. In their assessment at the end of January, 4 of these early adopters raised issues concerned with the effective implementation of this first operational stage and we are now working with them to resolve these issues. We remain committed to a prudent and incremental approach to implementation, and will continue to evaluate progress and adapt our approach as required.

Faith Schools: Islam

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many Muslim schools in England receive direct or indirect funding from foreign countries; and from which countries such funding is provided; [263090]

(2) how many complaints his Department has received on the use of physical punishment in Muslim schools in the latest period for which figures are available; [263091]

(3) how many pupils in England are being educated in Muslim schools. [263092]

Jim Knight: There are Muslim schools in both the independent and maintained sectors. We do not collect information about the sources of direct or indirect funding for independent schools. Maintained faith schools receive recurrent funding from their local authority although this can be topped up from other sources, for example where there are extended school activities. Voluntary aided maintained schools usually receive 90 per cent. of funding for capital work from the Department and provide 10 per cent. themselves. The Department does not record the source of funding for the 10 per cent. contribution, or any other contributions towards voluntary aided capital projects.

Information on the number of complaints received about the use of physical punishment in Muslim schools is not held centrally.

There were 15,985 pupils in independent Muslim schools and 3,410 in maintained sector Muslim schools in January 2008.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of pupils obtained five or more GCSEs at grade A* to C in *(a)* England, *(b)* Leicestershire and *(c)* Leicester East constituency in 2008. [262440]

Jim Knight: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Percentage of pupils[1] achieving 5 or more A to C grades at GCSE and equivalent, 2008[2]*

	Percentage of pupils
Leicester East parliamentary constituency[3]	63.8
Leicestershire local authority	64.7
England[4]	65.3

[1] Figures are based on pupils at the end of key stage 4.
[2] Figures are based on revised data.
[3] Pupils attending maintained schools located in Leicester, East constituency.
[4] Figure includes all schools.

Information for all parliamentary constituencies will be placed in the House Libraries.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Young Offender Institutions

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many young people in the secure estate achieved *(a)* one GCSE at A* to G, *(b)* five GCSEs at A* to G, *(c)* five GCSEs at A* to G including English and mathematics, *(d)* five GCSEs at A* to C and *(e)* five GCSEs at A* to C including English and mathematics in each year since 1997; [259293]

(2) how many young people in the secure estate sat GCSE examinations in each year since 1997. [259294]

Beverley Hughes: The information is not held by the Department.

Grandparents: Parental Responsibility

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many times *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials of his Department and its predecessors have met representatives of the Grandparents Raising Children Network to discuss the rights of grandparents raising children since 2001. [258814]

Beverley Hughes: The Department does not keep a central record of meetings with organisations. I am, therefore, unable to confirm whether any meetings have taken place with the Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Network since it was set up in March 2008.

Organs: Donors

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made in the consultation on organ donation and presumed consent. [262917]

Ann Keen: I have been asked to reply.

In September 2007 my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health asked the independent Organ Donation Taskforce to examine the implications of moving to a system of presumed consent. The Taskforce consulted a wide range of stakeholders. Their report, "The potential impact of an opt out system for organ donation in the UK", was published with a written ministerial statement on 17 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 6WS. The report is available for viewing at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_090312

and a copy has been placed in the Library.

Pupil Referral Units

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what information his Department holds on pupil referral units. [263479]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department currently collects data on:

the number of pupil referral units in England;

the overall number of pupils in pupil referral units and by:

age

gender

ethnicity

special educational needs (including those with a statement of special educational needs)

those entitled to free school meals and the number of those taking up the option of free school meals

the number who are solely registered in pupil referral units and the number who are dual registered in a pupil referral unit and a school or other provider, such as a college of further education;

the number of teachers in pupil referral units and, of those, how many are full-time and how many are part-time;

the number of support staff in pupil referral units, including teaching assistants, administrative staff and technicians;

the amount of contact time for pupils by pupil age.

We also hold some data on the attainment of pupils in pupil referral units but this is not collected by the Department. Attainment data for pupils in pupil referral units are collected by local authorities for key stage 1 pupils, the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority for key stage 2 and key stage 3 pupils, and by the exam boards for key stage 4 and key stage 5 pupils.

We announced in the alternative provision White Paper, "Back on Track", published in May 2008, that we intend to publish data later this year on the attainment of pupils in pupil referral units. We have also collected data on attendance at pupil referral units in January this year and will publish them in May.

Via the consistent financial reporting (CFR) data collection, the Department collects details of the income, expenditure and balances (surpluses/deficits) that have occurred during the previous financial year for all local authority maintained schools in England. CFR is a statutory return for all authority maintained schools

with delegated budgets. However, for pupil referral units a CFR return is optional, and during the 2007-08 collection we received data from 55 PRUs.

Via local authorities' budget statements, my Department collect details of local authorities planned expenditure on the provision of education at pupil referral units. Via this data collection, local authorities also provide details of the devolved school standards grant (including personalisation) allocated to PRUs.

Local authorities are required to publish this information locally and consequently every local authority will have their own budget statement published on their own website. In addition, the DCSF publish this data via the Section 52 website at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/localauthorityfinance/section52/subPage.cfm?action=section52.defaultAllID=58

Pupils: Bullying

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will give guidance to schools on the nomination of a named staff contact for parents who are concerned about bullying incidents in school and on the journey to and from school. [253397]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 2 February 2009]:* Our guidance 'Safe to Learn' provides specific advice to schools on complaints procedures for parents. It recommends that the first contact point to report concerns about bullying should be the class teacher or form teacher. The guidance provides a sample anti-bullying information sheet to be sent to parents, which could include a named contact for reporting concerns about bullying. We introduced legal provisions in the 2006 Education Act which gave school staff new powers to discipline pupils for bad behaviour outside the school gate. We have asked the Anti-Bullying Alliance and National Strategies to work with local authorities and schools to ensure the 'Safe to Learn' guidance is effectively implemented on the ground, and that schools make effective use of the other materials.

Pupils: Diabetes

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many school staff have received training on diabetes issues in each of the last five years. [262415]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department does not collect this information.

Pupils: Internet

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effect on school pupils' educational attainment of lack of access to the internet at home. [260836]

Jim Knight: Becta analysis of national attainment data has found the difference in attainment in maths and English between pupils with and without internet access (controlled for other variables) is equivalent to half a GCSE grade.

In 2005 the Department commissioned the University of Sheffield to conduct a study of the educational impact of children's use of internet-connected computers at home. The aim was to look at identifying the effect on educational attainment due to lack of access to technology (Valentine et al, 2005).

The study found that the use of computers at home was linked to higher levels of educational performance than expected in maths and English at Key Stage 2 and GCSE.

From this assessment it was concluded that lack of access adversely affects pupils' educational attainment in maths and English at these levels.

Pupils: Obesity

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children have been diagnosed as medically unfit to attend school on the grounds of obesity or obesity-related disorders in the last three years. [262336]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Data on the number of children diagnosed unfit to attend school on the grounds of obesity or obesity-related disorders are not available.

Schools: Purbeck

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much of the funding to be made available to Dorset County Council for implementation of the recommendations of the review of school provision in Purbeck will be allocated for expenditure on *(a)* secondary schools and *(b)* proposed primary schools. [263859]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: School capital allocations were made available to local authorities at the beginning of the three year spending review period 2008-09 to 2010-11, to be prioritised locally in accordance with asset management plans.

£70.8 million has been allocated to Dorset schools. Of this, £22.7 million is allocated directly to primary and secondary schools as Devolved Formula Capital, £8.4 million for the Primary Capital programme, £9.9 million for Modernisation, £4.1 million for Basic Need expansion, with other allocations for Extended Schools, Schools Access Initiative, Targeted Capital Funding and ICT, and £8.1 million equivalent funding for Voluntary Aided schools. In addition, Dorset has a One School Pathfinder project in progress for which £31.3 million has been allocated, with further allocations for kitchens and maintained boarding schools.

Apart from Devolved Formula Capital and the Primary Capital programme, it is for the local authority to decide what will be allocated to *(a)* secondary schools and *(b)* proposed primary schools. This can also include other resources raised locally.

The Department does not receive information from local authorities of local asset management plans, including the split of expenditure between primary and secondary schools.

Special Educational Needs: Children in Care

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children in care attended maintained special educational needs schools in each year since 1997. [256893]

Beverley Hughes: Information on children in care is usually sourced from the Looked After Children database but this cannot be used to answer this question as it does not identify the school each child attends. However, data on pupils in care are also collected via the school census and the available information is shown in the table. Pupil in care data are not available prior to 2004.

This census shows that there were 34,390 pupils aged five to 19 attending primary, secondary and special schools classed as being in care as at January 2008. Data published by the Department as SFR 23/2008: Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2008, shows 47,600 children aged between five and 19 as being looked after as at 31 March 2008. However the school census does not cover all looked after children; information is not collected for pupils in alternative provision, including pupil referral units, FE colleges, voluntary provision and those not in education or training. These differences in coverage will explain the different counts to an extent, but it is possible that the school census undercounts the number of looked after children in primary, secondary and special schools.

Maintained Special Schools[1]: Number of pupils in care2—Position in January each year 2004 to 2008, England

	Number
2004	4,170
2005	3,900
2006	4,040
2007	4,440
2008	4,530

[1] Excludes general hospital schools.
[2] Includes dually registered pupils and boarding pupils.
Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Special Educational Needs: Disadvantaged

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils in *(a)* special schools and *(b)* independent schools in each decile of income deprivation affecting children indices had statements of special educational needs in (i) 2003 and (ii) 2008. [260808]

Jim Knight: The Department does not collect address information for pupils attending independent schools therefore it is not possible to provide residency based information for pupils attending independent schools.

The available information is set out in the following table:

Number of pupils attending special schools[1] with a statement of special educational needs by IDACI decile[2] of pupil residence

IDACI decile of pupil residence	Special schools 2003	2008
0-10% most deprived areas	16,559	14,965
10-20%	14,212	13,166
20-30%	11,691	11,046
30-40%	9,743	9,322
40-50%	8,173	8,067
50-60%	6,726	6,803
60-70%	6,274	6,430
70-80%	5,589	5,758
80-90%	5,261	5,448
90-100% least deprived areas	4,829	5,075

[1] Includes solely registered pupils attending foundation special schools, community special schools and non-maintained special schools.
[2] Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index 2007 at Super Output Area level.
Source:
School Census.

Special Educational Needs: Finance

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding was allocated to primary schools in *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency, *(b)* the Chelmsford local authority area and *(c)* England for children diagnosed with specific learning difficulties in 2008-09; and how much funding was allocated for special education schools operating in (i) West Chelmsford constituency, (ii) the Chelmsford local authority area and (iii) England in 2008-09. [261805]

Jim Knight: Funding data specifically for children diagnosed with specific learning difficulties are not collected by the Department. However, according to the available information, Essex local authority's 2008-09 budget statement reports that maintained special schools planned expenditure in West Chelmsford was £3.4 million and maintained primary schools received an indicative special educational needs allocation of £2.2 million.

The following table provides the planned net expenditure on the provision of education for pupils with special educational needs in Essex local authority and England for 2008-09:

£

	Essex LA	England
ISB for special schools (Table 1)	28,406,000	1,505,416,000
Funding delegated to nursery schools identified as "notional SEN"	15,000	11,660,000
Funding delegated to primary schools identified as "notional SEN"	32,756,000	1,152,319,000
Funding delegated to secondary schools identified as "notional SEN"	27,572,000	879,151,000
Total SEN funding delegated to schools	88,748,000	3,548,546,000
Centrally retained SEN element of the school budget	31,921,000	1,185,141,000

	Essex LA	£ England
SEN element of the LA budget	5,332,000	365,229,000
Total planned expenditure on the education of children with SEN	126,001,000	5,098,916,000

Notes:
1. Includes planned expenditure on the provision for pupils with statements and the provision for non-statemented pupils with SEN, support for inclusion, inter authority recoupment, fees for pupils at independent special schools and abroad, educational psychology service, local authority functions in relation to child protection, therapies and other health related services, parent partnership, guidance and information, the monitoring of SEN provision and inclusion administration, assessment and co-ordination. Also included is the funding delegated to nursery, primary and secondary schools identified as "notional SEN" and the individual schools budget (ISB) for special schools.
2. The ISB for special schools will include some general education costs for pupils with SEN in addition to those costs specifically for SEN while the figures recorded against "notional SEN" are only indicative of the amount that might by spent by schools on SEN. During 2008-09 local authorities in England also budgeted £552.6 million for SEN transport expenditure but this is not included in the above table (Essex LA budgeted £13.3 million for SEN transport expenditure).
3. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand pounds and may not sum due to rounding.
4. The data are drawn from local authorities Children, Schools and Families Financial Data Collection (Budget) submitted to the DCSF.
5. Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 5 March 2009.

Special Educational Needs: Private Sector

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 2116-7W, on special educational needs: private sector, how many of the schools referred to in each year were located in each local authority area. [260823]

Jim Knight: The information requested has been placed in the House Libraries.

Teachers: Pay

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 22 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1711W, on teachers' pay, if he will *(a)* publish the findings of the Local Government Employers' survey of local authorities on the number of teachers who have lost pay as a result of the ending of safeguarding for management allowances; and *(b)* estimate the amount removed from the overall teachers' pay bill as a result of the ending of the safeguarding. [263966]

Jim Knight: We do not hold such results centrally as the Local Government Employers contacted a sample of local authorities to estimate the number of teachers who would be affected by the ending of safeguarding payments for management allowances. Our previous reply reported that the sample survey indicated that between 2 per cent. and 4 per cent. of teachers may have been affected by the ending of the safeguarding period.

We do not collect data on the amount that will be removed from the overall teachers' pay bill as a result of the ending of this safeguarding. Schools have been planning for this since the withdrawal of management allowances on 31 December 2005 and the subsequent introduction of Teaching and Learning Responsibility payments with the requirement to review the school's staffing structure. It is for schools to determine how best to utilise any savings made as a result of the expiry of the safeguarding period. Local authorities have already set indicative school budgets for 2009-10 and 2010-11 in addition to budgets for 2008-09.

Teachers: Training

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average A level grades required for admission to a Bachelor of Education course were in the latest year for which information is available; what the lowest A level grades required for admission to such a course are; and if he will make a statement. [260997]

Jim Knight: The A level requirements which universities and colleges are asking for entry to Bachelor of Education courses for 2009 entry are as follows:

Minimum requirement: 160 UCAS tariff points which is equivalent of A level grades DDE.

Average requirement: 230 UCAS tariff points. 240 points equals A level grades CCC, and 220 points equals grades CCD.

Source:
Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

Young People: Mental Health Services

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average waiting time for help from children and adolescent mental health support services was in each local authority area in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [262589]

Beverley Hughes: The report of the independent review of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), "Children and Young people in Mind", stated that there had been a 14 per cent. fall between 2005 and 2007 in the number of children and young people waiting to be seen by CAMHS, with shorter waiting times. Information is not collected, however, in the form requested. The annual CAMHS and Maternity Services mapping exercise conducted by Durham university for the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department of Health provides information on waiting times for CAMHS by strategic health authority and NHS provider. This information is available at the Child Health, CAMHS and Maternity Mapping website at:

www.childhealthmapping.org.uk.

Youth Clubs

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has *(a)* spent and *(b)* allocated to spend on youth centres during the financial years (a) 2008-09 and (b) 2009-10. [263184]

Beverley Hughes: In addition to that spent by local authorities from within their own budgets, the DCSF has committed £240 million in 2008-09 to 62 world class 'myplace' youth facilities across England with a further £32 million to be committed through 'myplace' in 2009-11. The Department has also committed £22.6 million in 2008-09 through the Youth Capital Fund Plus to deliver

over 100 improved youth facilities in neighbourhoods with high rates of antisocial behaviour and crime in the 50 most deprived local authorities. £26.5 million capital investment per annum is also being made in both 2008-09 and in 2009-10 through the Youth Capital Fund to support the provision of positive activities in all areas of the country.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Bye Laws

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to publish the Government's formal response to the consultation in respect of the enforcement of local government byelaws. [262734]

John Healey: The Department intends to publish the Government's response to the consultation on the making and enforcement of byelaws by the end of March.

Council Housing: Rents

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 6 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 71-2WS, on local authority rents, what requirements local authorities must meet to be eligible for additional funding from central Government. [263039]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government wrote to local authorities on 11 March with further information following my right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing and Planning's announcement of 6 March that we would be halving the 2009-10 national average guideline rent increase from 6.2 per cent. to 3.1 per cent. in recognition of the current difficult economic conditions. We are prepared to change the subsidy position of those authorities who reduce their actual average increase in rents in 2009-10 in line with the new national average.

Details of the arrangements are set out in our letter, and I have arranged for a copy to be placed in the Library of the House.

Council Tax: Second Homes

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties were registered as second homes for council tax purposes in each county in each year since the introduction of council tax; and what the year-on-year percentage change was in each case. [262771]

John Healey: For details of the number of properties registered as second homes, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Wright) on 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 543-4W.

Details of the corresponding year-on-year percentage changes are shown in the following table.

Percentage change in the number of second homes in each county in England

	Percentage change			
	November 2004 to October 2005	*October 2005 to October 2006*	*October 2006 to October 2007*	*October 2007 to October 2008*
Bedfordshire	14.3	58.1	-11.3	1.7
Buckinghamshire	-4.9	1.7	1.9	6.3
Cambridgeshire	3.6	-7.5	-1.4	1.0
Cheshire	13.7	20.6	19.8	2.0
Cornwall	-2.1	-1.4	1.2	3.0
Cumbria	0.5	5.9	-3.4	1.4
Derbyshire	-1.8	2.0	-3.4	9.4
Devon	-1.4	-3.9	-2.7	-0.2
Dorset	3.4	-0.7	-1.3	2.9
Durham	22.7	-23.0	15.0	-1.0
East Sussex	-1.6	-2.7	-1.8	-0.4
Essex	-3.4	7.2	0.8	-3.5
Gloucestershire	-2.4	-0.3	3.1	2.1
Hampshire	6.8	-3.8	0.1	3.3
Hertfordshire	17.4	-2.4	3.1	4.1
Kent	-7.2	-3.1	-3.3	32.5
Lancashire	10.7	-7.7	-2.3	0.1
Leicestershire	22.6	24.5	-5.3	-7.6
Lincolnshire	5.5	-4.9	-10.3	-0.8
Norfolk	3.6	-0.7	-0.8	2.1
North Yorkshire	5.0	0.5	0.0	4.7
Northamptonshire	-9.1	-0.3	-2.5	1.3
Northumberland	1.4	-0.2	-1.1	4.3
Nottinghamshire	28.7	7.1	1.3	6.1
Oxfordshire	-0.9	2.3	8.9	-5.4
Shropshire	3.3	-1.4	-2.8	1.1
Somerset	-1.1	-1.6	-3.6	1.3
Staffordshire	6.3	-1.4	-0.4	1.9
Suffolk	-0.5	-1.4	0.9	1.3
Surrey	15.7	-11.4	-5.5	4.4
Warwickshire	1.6	75.2	5.7	-0.8

Percentage change in the number of second homes in each county in England

	Percentage change			
	November 2004 to October 2005	*October 2005 to October 2006*	*October 2006 to October 2007*	*October 2007 to October 2008*
West Sussex	8.9	-0.4	-2.0	1.4
Wiltshire	8.1	10.9	-1.7	-1.0
Worcestershire	-5.9	-1.5	-0.7	4.6

Source:
CTB forms submitted annually by local authorities

Departmental Absenteeism

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff of her Department were recorded absent for non-medical reasons on *(a)* 2 February 2009 and *(b)* 3 February 2009; what estimate she has made of the (i) cost to her Department and (ii) number of working hours lost due to such absence; and what guidance her Department issued to staff in respect of absence on these days. [260472]

Mr. Khan: The Department does not record non-medical absences centrally and compilation of this information from local sources (i.e. individual business units) would incur a disproportionate cost. Staff were told via the emergency incident line and internet to contact their line manager to discuss working from home if they could not get safely to and from the office.

Departmental Bank Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with which banks her Department has or has had contracts for the provision of financial advice, for the financial year 2008-09. [262764]

Mr. Khan: The Department has not held any contracts for the provision of financial advice during the financial year 2008-09 from any bank.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff in her Department *(a)* were disciplined and *(b)* had their employment terminated as a result of a poor sickness record in each of the last 12 months. [262246]

Mr. Khan: We have no staff who were disciplined or had their employment terminated as a result of a poor sickness record in each of the last 12 months.

Eco-Towns

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 29 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 769W, on eco-towns, if she will place in the Library a copy of the Cragg Ross Dawson research on local attitudes to the proposals for eco-towns. [262293]

Margaret Beckett: I am placing a copy of the Cragg Ross Dawson research in the House Library. This was qualitative research undertaken last July to explore national and local attitudes to the proposals for eco-towns, and to help inform our communications strategy at that time.

Empty Housing: Yorkshire and the Humber

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many empty homes there were in each local authority area in Yorkshire and the Humber at the latest date for which figures are available; how many of these homes had been empty on a long-term basis; and if she will make a statement. [262253]

Mr. Iain Wright: Initiatives to bring empty homes back into use are, rightly, channelled through local authorities who are best placed to assess what measures are appropriate to their local circumstances. In the first instance, we encourage local authorities to work with owners to persuade them of the benefits of bringing their property back into use.

However, where it is clear that owners are not prepared to co-operate with efforts to get their property occupied through agreement, we have provided enforcement powers to deal with them. Key powers are compulsory purchase and enforced sale which were added to by the Housing Act 2004 which introduced a new power for local authorities to make Empty Dwelling Management Orders (EDMOs) in respect of long-term empty homes. An EDMO allows a local authority to take over the management of an unoccupied dwelling in certain circumstances.

We are keen for local authorities to make use of EDMOs, where appropriate, and are supporting the independent Empty Homes Agency's new guidance on EDMOs, which was launched on 10 March. The guidance is internet based and interactive and takes local authorities through the EDMO process step by step. My right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing and Planning provided a foreword for the guidance.

Later this month we are also hosting a seminar at which I will address local authorities encouraging them to take action and to share best practice on tackling empty homes, including the use of EDMOs.

In addition, local authorities and other public sector bodies must do more to resolve the problems within their own housing stock, but this does not mean they should be prevented from pursuing reoccupation of privately owned dwellings.

The following table sets out the latest position on vacant stock within the region in question.

Vacant dwellings in Yorkshire and Humber: As at 1 April 2008

	Local authority (LA) stock	*Registered social landlord (RSL) stock*	*Private sector (PS) stock*	*Total vacant stock*	*Of which: PS dwellings vacant more than six months*
Barnsley	427	84	3,483	4,006	1,410
Bradford	0	1,087	8,354	9,441	4,986
Calderdale	0	1,029	4,273	5,392	1,835
Craven	2	30	882	915	276
Doncaster	300	33	4,805	5,138	2,835
East Riding of Yorkshire UA	109	29	4,940	5,086	2,200
Hambleton	0	62	1,672	1,734	506
Harrogate	26	14	2,374	2,430	1,080
Kingston upon Hull, City of UA	1,307	109	7,224	8,640	2,795
Kirklees	333	39	6,413	6,785	4,937
Leeds	1,979	281	15,297	17,557	6,851
North East Lincolnshire UA	0	473	2,457	2,930	1,068
North Lincolnshire UA	0	192	1,803	2,023	863
Richmondshire	42	2	360	505	291
Rotherham	348	29	1,882	2,405	1,208
Ryedale	0	20	845	871	319
Scarborough	0	84	1,974	2,058	940
Selby	26	11	1,333	1,370	446
Sheffield	933	538	4,258	5,733	2,816
Wakefield	0	507	5,205	5,712	3,151
York UA	90	48	1,511	1,678	486
Yorkshire and Humber total	5,922	4,701	81,345	92,409	[1]41,299

[1] Includes 303 dwellings earmarked for demolition or re-development linked to regeneration or other housing schemes.
Note:
Information on long term (six months plus) empty stock in the social housing sector is not available.
Source:
Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) 2008

Homelessness: Crosby

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1284-85W, on homelessness, what definition of the term vulnerable households she uses; and what estimate she has made of the number of vulnerable households in Crosby constituency which will receive assistance under the Mortgage Reserve Scheme. [263003]

Margaret Beckett: The Government Mortgage Rescue aims to support up to 6,000 'vulnerable' households in England at risk of repossession over the next two years. Under the scheme's criteria, a 'vulnerable' household is termed as one that falls within one of three priority need categories and who would be owed a duty to secure accommodation under the homelessness legislation (section 189(1)(a)-(c) of the Housing Act 1996) if they became homeless through no fault of their own.

The three priority need categories are that the home owner must be:

(1) a person with whom dependent children reside or might reasonably be expected to reside;

(2) a pregnant woman or a person with whom she resides or might reasonably be expected to reside; or

(3) a person who is vulnerable as a result of old age, mental illness or handicap or physical disability or other special reason, or with whom such a person resides or might reasonably be expected to reside.

The £200 million Government Mortgage Rescue Scheme has been operational across the country since 1 January 2009. The Government have not made any estimate of the number of households it expects to benefit from the scheme by individual parliamentary constituency. The scheme is demand-led, with the number of vulnerable households benefiting from the scheme dependant on the number of eligible households approaching their local authority for assistance.

Homelessness: Sefton

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1284-5W, on homelessness, how much of the proposed £200 million spending to prevent homelessness is to be allocated to Sefton; and on what projects the funding will be used. [263002]

Mr. Iain Wright: Sefton will receive £62,000 a year homelessness grant (revenue); a total of £186,000 over the period 2008-11. This money is not ring-fenced therefore it is for local authorities to decide how to use their homelessness grant to effectively deliver their strategies.

Sefton borough council were also awarded £1,080,000 capital funding from the Places of Change programme in March 2008 towards the refurbishment of the BOSCO Society hostel in Bootle.

The project provides 13 hostel bed spaces for single homeless men, many of whom have an offender background, suffer from the effects of years of rough sleeping, substance misuse and poor mental health. The building in which the service is currently based is dilapidated and not fit for purpose. The Places of Change programme grant will enable "BOSCO" to transform a poor physical environment into an attractive, welcoming living space, and also to improve established training facilities and opportunities for social enterprise for residents.

Housing: Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will bring forward proposals to simplify the mechanism for the allocation of housing and planning delivery grants in light of the downturn in the housing sector. [263922]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government set out their proposals for the Housing and Planning Delivery Grant (HPDG) in the Housing and Planning Delivery Grant: Allocation Mechanism and Summary of Consultation Responses document which was published in July 2008. This document confirmed the final allocation mechanism and also set out that the Government will closely monitor both the housing market and the impact of HPDG and consider any necessary changes in light of emerging evidence.

We are currently considering the allocation mechanism to ensure that local authorities are incentivised to respond to current market conditions and are well placed to respond effectively to the market upturn. We will undertake public consultation on any proposed changes which we will issue during the spring.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding her Department has allocated for affordable housing in Hemel Hempstead in the next three years. [262976]

Mr. Iain Wright: Dacorum/Hemel Hempstead falls within the London Commuter Belt Housing Sub Region. The indicative resource level for the sub region for the period 2008-11 was £179.9 million.

The current new resource to Dacorum for 2008-11 comprises:

£645,000 to fund 13 new homes in Hemel Hempstead;

£630,000 to fund a minimum of 13 homes under the HOLD Programme (Home Ownership for People with Learning Disabilities). This resource is for Dacorum as a whole and not specific to Hemel Hempstead.

The Homes and Communities Agency now operates a system of Continuous Market Engagement meaning that bids for new funding can be submitted at any point in the year.

Housing: Research

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what timetable she has set for her Department's research to identify the housing options for households at risk of domestic violence; whom she has consulted during the research; and who is carrying it out. [263637]

Mr. Iain Wright: This research consists of three studies examining different aspects of current accommodation and support provision for households at risk of domestic violence. All three studies are due to be completed by the end of December 2009.

The first study is examining what housing assistance is available for adults without dependant children who are at risk of domestic violence. This will include consideration of the responses of local authority housing departments. The work is being carried out by the Cambridge Centre for Housing and Planning Research, University of Cambridge. The second study, identifying the current provision of accommodation and housing related support, is being carried out by the Centre for Housing Policy, University of York. The third study, which will identify good practice in the provision of schemes to enable households at risk of domestic violence to remain safely in their own homes, is also being carried out by the Centre for Housing Policy at the University of York.

A number of stakeholders and experts have agreed to act as a Reference Group for all three studies. This group includes Women's Aid, Refuge, Imkaan, Respect, the Greater London Domestic Violence Project, the Association of Chief Police Officers, and the Home Office. The Reference Group are consulted at key stages of each project, and several members have been interviewed by each of the research teams.

In addition there will be interviews and focus groups with people who have experienced domestic violence and with representatives of local authorities and service providers, whose identities will not be disclosed, in line with normal practice on confidentiality of research interviews.

Local Government Finance: Sefton

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1298-1300W, how much funding Sefton Council has received for *(a)* capital investment in housing, *(b)* major repairs allowance and *(c)* disabled facilities grants in each year since 1995. [262947]

Mr. Iain Wright: Allocations to Sefton council of capital funding for housing purposes over the period 1995-96 to 2009-10 exceeds £123 million.

The following table shows the funding Sefton have received for capital investment in housing, major repairs allowance and disabled facilities grants in each year.

Allocations

£000

	(a) Housing capital allocations (excluding MRA and DFG)	*(b) Major repairs allowance (MRA)*	*(c) Disabled facilities grant (DFG)*	*(a, b, c) Total*
1995-96	5,610	—	—	5,610
1996-97	5,192	—	—	5,192
1997-98	4,244	—	264	4,508
1998-99	5,928	—	291	6,219
1999-2000	5,617	—	291	5,908
2000-01	9,011	—	323	9,334

Allocations

£000

	(a) Housing capital allocations (excluding MRA and DFG)	*(b) Major repairs allowance (MRA)*	*(c) Disabled facilities grant (DFG)*	*(a, b, c) Total*
2001-02	4,480	7,456	380	12,316
2002-03	5,148	7,370	713	13,231
2003-04	4,852	7,165	720	12,737
2004-05	5,533	7,274	791	13,598
2005-06	5,533	7,253	791	13,577
2006-07	6,132	—	918	7,050
2007-08	6,033	—	964	6,997
2008-09	4,985	—	964	5,949
2009-10	—	—	1,157	1,157
				123,383

Payments of major repairs allowance ceased in 2006, following the transfer of housing stock to a new registered social landlord.

Local Government: Electronic Government

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities have failed to meet the deadline to put in place a code of connection to facilitate access to the Government Connect service; and if she will make a statement. [262516]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

The initial deadline is 31 March 2009 and the final deadline is 30 September 2009 for local authorities to achieve compliance with the Government Connect Code of Connection. It is, therefore, not yet possible to state how many local authorities have complied.

Government Connect applies to 410 local authorities in England and Wales. Of these, 106 were granted up to six-month exemption to the initial deadline shortly after its announcement in July 2008. Of the remaining 304 targeted for 31 March 2009, the majority have either achieved compliance or are believed to be on track.

Achieving compliance with the Government Connect Code of Connection is a local authority responsibility and, therefore, the Department cannot state with certainty when compliance will be achieved.

Based on progress to date, the Department estimates that of the 304 targeted for March 2009, 53 will be late by less than one month and a further 43 will be late by two to three months.

Providing those late authorities demonstrate commitment to achieving Code of Connection compliance, the Department anticipates providing continued support and granting short-term exemptions to the deadline.

The current connectivity status can be found on the Government Connect website at:

http://www.govconnect.gov.uk/implementation/update.php

London Pensions Fund Authority

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the estimated size of the London Pension Fund Authority's pensioners sub-fund deficit is; and what proportion of that deficit is attributable to pension commitments in relation to former employees of the *(a)* Greater London Council and *(b)* Inner London Education Authority. [262444]

Mr. Khan: The 31 March 2007 actuarial valuation of the London Pensions Funds Authority shows that the total deficit attributable to the former employees of the Greater London Council, the Inner London Education Authority, the London Residuary Body and others amounted to £210 million. Further details to breakdown this figure can be obtained from the authority.

Multiple Occupation: Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment she has made of the effect of former seaside guest houses and hotels which are now operated as houses of multiple occupation on the prospects for businesses in those towns. [262998]

Mr. Iain Wright: No analysis has been made of the impact on businesses in seaside towns of guest houses and hotels changing into houses of multiple occupation. We would envisage that such local authorities would consider the effects as part of the local strategies that they develop with their local partnerships.

Non-Domestic Rates: Business

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of domestic properties had their tax registration changed to business property in each county in each of the last 12 months. [262827]

John Healey: The number of domestic properties that were reclassified as business properties in each county in each of the last 12 months is shown in the following table.

Number of domestic properties transferred to the non-domestic ratings list

						2008					*2009*	
County	*March*	*April*	*May*	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*	*October*	*November*	*December*	*January*	*February*
Bedfordshire	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	2

Number of domestic properties transferred to the non-domestic ratings list

	2008										2009	
County	*March*	*April*	*May*	*June*	*July*	*August*	*September*	*October*	*November*	*December*	*January*	*February*
Buckinghamshire	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Cambridgeshire	2	3	2	3	9	1	3	2	3	1	1	1
Cheshire	0	0	3	10	3	3	1	2	2	1	1	0
Cornwall	21	33	56	38	41	32	19	17	9	6	6	15
Cumbria	18	31	26	27	20	20	17	14	20	13	10	14
Derbyshire	4	4	10	4	12	2	11	6	5	4	5	2
Devon	37	35	28	70	30	23	35	56	26	24	25	25
Dorset	11	16	12	28	11	14	8	11	6	4	9	1
Durham	1	0	2	1	1	2	1	1	4	1	3	0
East Sussex	2	5	27	3	4	3	3	3	0	1	2	2
Essex	0	2	1	1	3	0	1	0	4	0	0	1
Gloucestershire	3	2	3	2	3	0	3	5	1	1	7	2
Hampshire	2	6	3	5	5	12	8	2	4	5	2	1
Hertfordshire	0	1	3	3	2	3	1	0	2	3	0	0
Kent	8	10	6	8	7	5	6	3	3	1	6	5
Lancashire	5	2	6	8	6	4	3	2	4	1	2	4
Leicestershire	2	2	0	1	1	3	2	2	2	4	2	3
Lincolnshire	13	12	13	17	16	9	9	7	5	8	3	6
Norfolk	19	41	28	36	36	22	17	28	20	33	23	16
North Yorkshire	22	6	6	8	14	4	17	26	24	17	18	17
Northamptonshire	0	0	3	1	4	0	0	1	0	1	—	0
Northumberland	11	18	19	12	19	10	8	17	2	7	—	10
Nottinghamshire	1	2	0	4	3	1	3	0	1	2	—	1
Oxfordshire	2	1	2	1	3	3	3	4	3	2	—	1
Shropshire	5	1	7	5	1	3	0	1	3	1	—	0
Somerset	4	10	11	9	10	4	3	1	5	2	3	9
Staffordshire	1	3	2	3	1	1	2	0	0	4	4	1
Suffolk	7	15	9	11	12	9	10	15	16	6	16	4
Surrey	2	2	0	2	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	2
Warwickshire	1	4	2	8	1	0	2	3	3	3	3	5
West Sussex	1	6	4	4	6	1	2	4	3	2	0	0
Wiltshire	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	2	0
Worcestershire	3	5	2	6	9	0	0	1	2	1	2	0
Total	209	279	298	340	296	195	198	237	185	160	161	150

Data on the proportion of domestic properties these figures represent have not been included as the figures are too small to be significant.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what revenue she estimates will accrue from the increase of 4.9 per cent. in the uniform business rate in 2009-10. [263864]

John Healey: For England, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1081W, to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill).

Business rates in Wales are the responsibility of the Welsh Assembly Government.

Planning Permission: Beverley

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to make a decision on the planning application for the Flemingate development proposal in Beverley; and if she will make a statement. [262259]

Mr. Iain Wright: The target date for the decision on this case is 1 May 2009. However, if the Secretary of State is able to issue the decision any earlier than this, she will do so.

Regional Planning and Development: South West

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent progress has been made in assessing the responses to the consultation on the South West Regional Spatial Strategy; and if she will publish her revised timetable for the Government's response to the consultation. [263375]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 13 March 2009]:* Significant progress is being made in assessing the 35,000 representations to the south west regional spatial strategy.

The Secretary of State will publish a revised timetable shortly.

Sleeping Rough: Sefton

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1284-85W, on homelessness, how many rough sleepers there were in Sefton in each year since 2001. [R] [263000]

Mr. Iain Wright: Annual rough sleeping figures are based on local authority street counts and estimates where a street count did not take place.

	Number of rough sleepers in Sefton
2001	5
2002	2
2003	0
2004	0
2005	1
2006	1
2007	0
2008	0

Social Rented Housing: EC Nationals

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what rights to social housing are granted to nationals from other EU countries in accordance with EU legislation. [263738]

Margaret Beckett: EU nationals are eligible in principle for an allocation of local authority housing in England where they: are exercising an EU treaty right to reside as a worker or as a self-employed person; are an accession state national registered on the worker registration or worker authorisation scheme; have a right to reside permanently in the United Kingdom; or, subject to also being habitually resident, are exercising an EU treaty right to reside as a student or self-sufficient person.

Although the above EU nationals are in principle eligible for an allocation of housing, to receive an allocation they must have sufficient priority under a local authority's allocation scheme.

Travelling People: Caravan Sites

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 15 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 947-48W, on Travelling people: caravan sites, what the level and structure of the appropriate fee that should be charged for rubbish collections is; and what guidance her Department issues to local authorities in the event of Travellers refusing to pay. [262671]

Mr. Iain Wright: Section 45(4) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 provides the appropriate power to enable local authorities to seek payment of a reasonable charge for the collection of waste from an unauthorised site. The issue of whether a fee should be charged for the collection of such waste, and the level of that fee, is a matter for the relevant local authority to consider in the light of the circumstances that apply in each individual case. Local authorities have strong powers under section 33 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990, as amended by the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, to deal with any incidences of fly-tipping that might arise if the council cannot come to an agreement with the occupiers of the site about the level of fee.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prosecutions for procuring an illegal abortion have taken place in each year since 2003. [263282]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

Information showing the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under sections 58 and 59 of the Offences against the Person Act 1861 (as amended by the Abortion Act 1967) in England and Wales 2003 to 2007 are in the table. The Criminal Statistics data for 2008 are due to be published in November 2009.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates' courts for offences relating to procuring illegal abortion, England and Wales, 2003-07[1, 2]

Offence[3]	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Administering or using drugs or using instruments to procure abortion	3	2	—	—	1
Procuring drugs etc to cause abortion	—	—	1	—	—

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] These offences fall under the following statute:
Offences against the Person Act 1861 as amended by the Abortion Act 1967

Source:
Evidence and Analysis Unit - Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Allergies

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what tertiary allergy services are being provided in each strategic health authority in England; and if he will make a statement. [263253]

Ann Keen: The Department does not routinely collect these data.

In 2007, the Department published a review of allergy services, which identified that there were approximately 94 allergy clinics in England, of which six were services led by full-time specialist allergists. Three of these clinics were in London Strategic Health Authority and one each in East of England Strategic Health Authority; South Central Strategic Health Authority and one in East Midlands Strategic Health Authority.

The North West Strategic Health Authority has been appointed as the lead for allergy. They are developing a network, of provision centred around the major population centres of the region through building additional capacity and capability in existing providers of tertiary allergy services.

This work has started with steps to appoint a full time (adult) consultant allergist. Subject to agreement of North West primary care trusts, this will be followed in 2009-10 by the recruitment of (paediatric) consultant allergist. Plans then exist for the development of additional capacity and capability in other centres across the region and also in primary care.

The learning from this pilot site will form the basis of a model to be shared with other regions of England to encourage the development of locally appropriate provision in those areas.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has to increase the level of provision of immunotherapy services through specialist allergy centres for people with severe uncontrolled allergic rhinitis; and if he will make a statement; [263254]

(2) what progress he is making in increasing the number of regional specialist allergy centres in England; and if he will make a statement. [263255]

Ann Keen: The Department has appointed NHS North West to lead improvements in allergy services. This work is being taken forward by the North West Specialised Commissioning Team (NWSCT), acting on behalf of the strategic health authority (SHA) and primary care trusts (PCTs) in the region.

Working with key stakeholders, including patient groups and clinicians, the NWSCT has developed an implementation plan for the delivery of network based, integrated allergy services for children and adults across the region. A project manager has been appointed to take this plan forward, commencing with the appointment of an additional, full-time (adult) consultant allergist at University hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust.

The learning from this pilot site will form the basis of a model to be shared with other regions of England to encourage the development of locally appropriate provision in those areas.

Specialist allergy centres will be required to treat patients with a range of conditions, including severe uncontrolled allergic rhinitis, with a range of treatments. Such treatments may include, if clinically appropriate and evidenced, immunotherapy.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people have been admitted to hospital as a consequence of an allergic reaction to food in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [263278]

Ann Keen: The following table provides data from the NHS Information Centre on finished admission episodes in 1997-98 to 2007-08 where the primary diagnosis is specific to food allergies.

Count of admissions to hospital where the primary diagnosis is specific to food allergies in 1997-98 to 2007-08, activity in English NHS hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

	Finished admission episodes
2007-08	3,728
2006-07	3,538
2005-06	3,078
2004-05	2,594
2003-04	2,390
2002-03	2,168
2001-02	2,072
2000-01	2,079
1999-2000	2,046
1998-99	1,688
1997-98	1,646

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average cost to the NHS of treating an individual for food allergies was in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [263288]

Ann Keen: The Department does not hold data on the cost of treating an individual for food allergies.

A review of allergy services, published in June 2006, estimated the cost to the national health service of managing all allergic disease to be in the region of £1 billion per annum in the United Kingdom.

Blood Transfusions

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure that patients are not infected by blood transfusions. [262918]

Phil Hope: The quality and safety of human blood and blood components are regulated by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency under the Blood Safety and Quality Regulations 2005 (as amended). The Regulations transpose into UK law European Blood Directives 2002/98/EC, 2004/33/EC, 2005/61/EC and 2005/62/EC, which set standards of quality and safety for the collection, testing, processing, storage and distribution of human blood and blood components.

There are strict selection criteria for anyone wishing to give blood, and mandatory testing of all blood components for HIV, Hepatitis B and C, syphilis and human T-cell lymphotropic virus. Depending on the donor's responses to questions regarding their travel history, tests may also be carried out for malaria, Trypanosoma cruzi, and West Nile Virus. Tests for Cytomegalovirus are also carried out on a number of donations to meet clinical needs. Risk management measures to protect the blood supply are kept under regular review by the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs.

As yet, there is no available blood test for variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD). However, there are a number of measures in place to reduce the risk of vCJD transmission via blood transfusion. A copy of these will be placed in the Library.

There are additional measures in place for the reduction of risk of donor skin contamination of blood during donation, such as diversion of the first portion of blood into a sample pouch rather than the main pack, and enhanced arm cleansing prior to venepuncture. Both measures significantly reduce risk of contamination.

No blood donation is 100 per cent. safe, and therefore blood should be used only when clinically appropriate. Significant action has been taken to promote appropriate use of blood and tissues and alternatives throughout the national health service, such as the Better Blood Transfusion programme, see "Health Service Circular 2007/001", a copy of which has been placed in the Library and is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Healthservicecirculars/DH_080613

National support and advice on the most appropriate use of blood is provided by the Chief Medical Officer's National Blood Transfusion Committee.

Bone Marrow Disorders

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are waiting for bone marrow transplants in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [262912]

Ann Keen: The Department does not hold this information centrally.

Dementia

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 111W, on dementia, who the members of the new National Dementia Strategy Programme Board are; and if he will make a statement. [263348]

Phil Hope: The terms of reference and membership of the new National Dementia Strategy Implementation Programme Board have yet to be finalised. They will be considered at the final meeting of the old Dementia Strategy Programme Board, now to be held on 31 March. They will then be determined by Ministers before the information is placed on the dementia page of the Department's website.

Departmental Detergents

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to ensure that no cleaning products or ingredients of cleaning products used by his Department have been tested on animals. [261126]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not purchase directly any cleaning products. Our cleaning contractor Resource has advised that its suppliers do have policies and a copy of these will be placed in the Library.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff in his Department *(a)* were disciplined and *(b)* had their employment terminated as a result of a poor sickness record in each of the last 12 months. [262234]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has formally disciplined fewer than five individuals in the last 12 months as a result of a poor sickness record, and dismissed fewer than five individuals in the last 12 months for that reason.

Because of the small numbers involved, it is the Department's practice not to provide the specific information requested on the grounds of confidentiality.

Similarly, there are a small number of cases which are currently at an informal stage of the disciplinary process.

Departmental Public Relations

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's expenditure on contracts with public relations consultancies was in each of the last five years. [251254]

Mr. Bradshaw: Public relations companies are employed to support a very wide range of marketing and policy initiatives. This includes major public health behaviour change programmes (such as tobacco control, sexual health, flu immunisation, obesity prevention, hand and respiratory hygiene and drug and alcohol harm reduction programmes) in addition to communicating to the national health service workforce and supporting clinical campaigns. The following table also includes NHS Connecting for Health expenditure.

Department of Health Expenditure on public relations consultancies 2004-09

£

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*[1]
Direct expenditure from the Department					
Including VAT	3,871,749	5,969,908	5,895,377	7,565,228	5,169,111
Excluding VAT	3,295,106	5,080,773	5,017,342	6,438,491	4,419,823
Expenditure through Central Office of Information					
Excluding VAT	3,060.00	71,755.87	65,580.04	25,582.35	1,451,464.29

[1] Spend to date

The work commissioned through public relations companies includes a wide range of marketing activity including: advertorials, newsletter production, conference and event management, research, creation of content and photography and stakeholder relations activity.

Departmental Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 137-38W, on departmental surveys, if he will place in the Library a copy of the results of the most recent staff survey undertaken by his Department. [263359]

Mr. Bradshaw: A copy of the document requested has been placed in the Library. This and the results of other staff surveys in the Department are now available and will, in future, be available on the staff survey page of the general civil service website.

Health Professions: English Language

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he has issued to NHS trusts on English-speaking requirements for clinical staff. [263392]

Ann Keen: It is the responsibility of employers to ensure that the clinical staff they employ are able to safely and effectively communicate with colleagues and patients. NHS employers have issued guidance on their website about international recruitment and language competence.

Heart Diseases: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many men under the age of 35 years resident in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire had heart attacks in each of the last five years. [263067]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not available in the format requested. The available information is held by primary care trust (PCT) area. However, the Department is unable to provide the data for West Hertfordshire PCT as it is Hospital Episode Statistics' protocol to suppress the results of data collection where the total is less than six individuals for reasons of patient confidentiality.

However, the following table provides data from the East of England Strategic Authority (SHA) (which includes Hemel Hempstead and Hertfordshire). It shows the number of males under the age of 35 years old who were admitted to hospital due to a heart attack:

Finished admission episodes

	East of England SHA
2007-08	47
2006-07	40
2005-06	48
2004-05	43
2003-04	37

Notes:
1. The East of England SHA was formed in 2006-07 by a merger of Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire, Essex, and Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire. Figures for 2003-04 to 2005-06 are therefore the combined figures of these three SHAs.
2. Finished admission episodes: a finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
3. Primary diagnosis: the primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) dataset and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.
4. The ICD-10 codes used to identify heart attacks are as follows; I21—Acute myocardial infarction and I22—Subsequent myocardial infarction.
5. Number of episodes in which the patient had a (named) primary diagnosis: these figures represent the number of episodes where the diagnosis was recorded in the primary diagnosis field in a HES record.
6. Data quality: HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 national health service trusts and PCTs in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the NHS in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

HIV Infection

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what programmes his Department is funding to encourage people with HIV to be advocates for HIV prevention. [263053]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department funds both the Terrence Higgins Trust and the African HIV Policy Network to deliver targeted work with the groups most affected by HIV, gay men and people from African communities, respectively. Both organisations will develop initiatives on positive prevention in 2009-10. National advocacy will be developed through the national programmes in partnership with other voluntary organisations consulting with key stakeholders in the community.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people who attended a genito-urinary medicine clinic received an HIV test when they attended the clinic in each of the last five years. [263130]

Phil Hope: Data on HIV are only available on the number of tests performed not on the number of patients tested. Data on the number of HIV tests performed in genitourinary medicine (GUM) clinics in England between 2003 and 2007, the latest year for which figures are available, are shown in the following table.

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Male	207,114	250,857	294,957	332,230	386,519
Female	193,052	232,356	281,215	317,372	382,529
Total	400,166	483,213	576,172	649,602	769,048

Notes:
1. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are for diagnoses and services provided in GUM clinics only. Diagnoses and services provided in other clinical settings, such as general practice, are not recorded in the KC60 dataset.
2. The information provided has been adjusted for missing clinic data.
3. Data are unavailable for 2008.
Source:
Health Protection Agency, KC60 returns.

Memory Clinics

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will set a deadline for primary care trusts to take decisions on the *(a)* nature, *(b)* number and *(c)* funding of memory services. [263351]

Phil Hope: The decisions about local implementation of the National Dementia Strategy, including decisions on the development of memory services, will be a matter for individual primary care trusts and local authorities.

Mental Health Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many assertive outreach teams there were in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in each of the last 10 years. [263064]

Phil Hope: The information is not held centrally in the format requested.

However, the total number of assertive outreach (AO) teams in the East of England strategic health authority (SHA) and for Hertfordshire Partnerships NHS Trust from March 2007 to present is provided in the following table. Earlier data is no longer accessible.

Mental health services: Assertive outreach teams in East of England SHA and in Hertfordshire Partnerships NHS Trust from the year 2007 to present

Year ending March each year	*East of England SHA*	*Hertfordshire Partnerships NHS Trust*
2007	24	5
2008	23	5

Note:
The Department no longer has an agreement with Durham University who provided the Department with data on the number of AOs prior to March 2007 and the database is no longer accessible.
Source:
Mental Health Strategies.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1768W, on mental health services, (1) which professions deliver cognitive behavioural therapy; [263532]

(2) how his Department defines the term state of the art training in relation to cognitive behavioural therapy; [263533]

(3) what mechanisms are in place to assess the effectiveness of cognitive behavioural therapy. [263534]

Phil Hope: Clinical psychologists, counselling psychologists, nurse therapists, primary care counsellors and other qualified mental health professionals are eligible to train in delivering cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) for depression and anxiety disorders, high intensity therapy, as part of the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) programme. Those without a core professional background are required to complete a knowledge, skills and attitudes portfolio to be eligible for training.

All those currently delivering CBT are required to be accredited by the BABCP (British Association of Behavioural and Cognitive Psychotherapies), the United Kingdom's leading organisation for CBT.

People from a wide range of backgrounds with a special interest in therapeutic approaches are eligible to train in delivering low intensity interventions.

IAPT programme training courses can be described as "state of the art" courses principally because they are based on the CBT competency framework, which was a piece of empirical science.

In addition, these training courses focus on clinical skills development for low and high intensity therapists; they have national curricula developed through expert and lay consultation; they are supported by clear national learning materials, and techniques developed in clinical trials are taught by experts in the relevant therapeutic discipline.

All the educational institutions delivering these courses around the country are subject to an accreditation regime that provides quality assurance.

The IAPT programme has one principal aim—to help primary care trusts (PCTs) implement the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidelines for people suffering from depression and/or anxiety disorders.

CBT is an evidence-based intervention and is recommended by NICE for the treatment of depression and/or anxiety disorders. However, all IAPT services are required to collect routine clinical outcomes at every session so that clinical teams can evaluate the effectiveness of the service and so patients can see and discuss their progress with their therapist. The data also enable PCTs and practice based commissioners to commission psychological therapy services for the outcomes they are expected to achieve.

Mental Health Services: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to his announcement of 8 March 2009 on mental health and unemployment, from which budget the £13 million he has allocated will be taken; by what mechanism it will be allocated to local NHS services; and how it will be broken down between the different measures he has announced. [263631]

Phil Hope: This additional funding is for a package of measures to help the national health service support people with emotional distress or common mental health problems in the economic downturn. It builds on the significant investment we are already making, annual funding rising to £173 million by 2010-11, to train a new workforce and invest in high quality psychological therapy services.

The mechanism to allocate the extra £13 million to the local NHS is yet to be determined, although it will be distributed in the 2009-10 financial year. Departmental officials are working closely with strategic health authorities to ensure the money is used to address the needs of the primary care trusts appropriately.

NHS Treatment Centres: Private Sector

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the cost of residual value payments which may be made to providers of independent sector treatment centres (ISTC) projects contracted under the *(a)* first and *(b)* second wave of the ISTC programme. [262979]

Mr. Bradshaw: The current estimate of the residual value payments on all wave 1 contracts is approximately £176 million and in phase II approximately £40 million.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department *(a)* has issued and *(b)* plans to issue on the renegotiation of independent treatment sector contracts. [262980]

Mr. Bradshaw: No formal guidance on the renegotiation of independent sector treatment contracts has yet been issued. A degree of national consistency will be necessary as this work is taken forward. Any formal guidance would be developed in discussion with the national health service and the independent sectors. It is expected that decisions will be taken based on local service need and value for money.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the merits of refinancing independent sector treatment centre premises and leasing them back to independent providers. [263137]

Mr. Bradshaw: No assessment has yet been made of the possibility of refinancing independent sector treatment centre premises and leasing them back to independent providers.

As plans develop for the management of contract expiry, all options will be considered.

NHS: Buildings

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what gross internal floor area each NHS organisation held which was attributable to buildings with temporary planning consent in each of the last five years; and what the ERIC code of each organisation is. [263603]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has collected annual data from national health service trusts through the Estates Returns Information Collection (ERIC) relating to:

"The gross internal floor area that is attributable to buildings with temporary planning consent, as defined in the Planning Regulations (normally with up to two years planning consent). Exclude site cabins used by private contractors but include all relevant buildings that are either owned by the NHS Trust or defined within the terms of a lease, service level agreement, or tenancy agreement. Excludes leased out areas."

The data for 2007-08 have been placed in the Library.

The information provided has been supplied by the NHS and had not been amended centrally. The accuracy and completeness of the information is the responsibility of the provider organisation. Provision of this data was voluntary for all NHS trusts including foundation trusts.

A list of the organisations codes used in ERIC has also been placed in the Library.

NHS: Fairtrade Initiative

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to encourage NHS organisations to purchase fair trade products where appropriate. [263369]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department is committed to the principles of fair and ethical trade. We have already made a clear commitment, in the 2008 Global Health Strategy, to

"support the work of the British Medical Association-led Medical Fair and Ethical Trade Group, foster good practice in the National Health Service and private healthcare system, and work with industry and other countries to encourage fair and ethical trade".

In addition, the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency issued "Ethical Procurement for Health" for consultation in December 2008. A copy has been placed in the Library. This encourages NHS organisations to consider labour standards issues within procurement and to adopt appropriate policies and procedures to assure standards are maintained in line with International Labour Organisation conventions.

Pharmacy: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many licensed pharmacies there were in Hemel Hempstead in each of the last five years. [263066]

Phil Hope: This information is not held in the format requested. However, data are held for the number of community pharmacies in contract with their primary care trust (PCT) at 31 March each year. These data were first published in 2004-05, and are held by PCT area only.

Since 2006, West Hertfordshire PCT has covered Hemel Hempstead constituency. Prior to 2006, West Hertfordshire PCT was made up of Dacorum PCT, Hertsmere PCT, St. Albans and Harpenden PCT and Watford and Three Rivers PCT.

The number of community pharmacies in contract with Hemel Hempstead PCT at 31 March each year for 2006-08, and with Dacorum PCT, Hertsmere PCT, St. Albans and Harpenden PCT and Watford and Three Rivers PCT for 2004-06 is shown in the following table.

Number of community pharmacies in contract with PCT at 31 March

PCT	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Dacorum PCT	27	27	—	—
Hertsmere PCT	23	23	—	—
St. Albans and Harpenden PCT	26	27	—	—
Watford and Three Rivers PCT	42	41	—	—
West Hertfordshire PCT	—	—	123	123

Notes:
1. Each community pharmacy has an arrangement with a PCT to dispense national health service prescriptions. The arrangement specifies both the premises and the named contractor.
2. Community pharmacies can dispense the full range of drugs and appliances as listed in the monthly Drug Tariff published by the NHS Prescription Services (previously known as the Prescription Pricing Division) of the NHS Business Services Authority.

Smoking

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females in the age groups (i) 10 to 15, (ii) 16 to 24, (iii) 25 to 49, (iv) 50 to 64, (v) 65 to 79 and (vi) 80 years and over (A) started and (B) ceased smoking in each of the last five years. [262984]

Phil Hope: The information requested is not available in the format requested.

Respondents to the General Household Survey (GHS) aged 16 and over have been asked questions about smoking behaviour since 1974. General trends in smoking are included in the GHS. The overall prevalence of smoking in England among the adult population was 21 per cent. in 2007. This is the lowest prevalence level since records began.

Spinal Injuries

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on publicly funded clinical research into *(a)* a cure for spinal cord injury and *(b)* the prevention of secondary complications associated with spinal cord injury between 2003 and 2008. [263005]

Phil Hope: The expenditure data available on research related to spinal injury are shown in the following table:

£ million

	Medical Research Council (MRC)	Department
2003-04	2.6	0.2
2004-05	1.4	0.2
2005-06	1.2	0.2

£ million

	Medical Research Council (MRC)	Department
2006-07	1.5	0.1
2007-08	1.8	0.2

The MRC figures include projects concerned directly with spinal cord injury and projects investigating related developmental or pathophysiological mechanisms likely to be relevant to understanding mechanisms of repair. They do not include projects related to spinal fracture arising from osteoporosis.

The MRC supports a great deal of basic underpinning research on the structure and function of the nervous system, the cost of which is not included in these figures.

The departmental figures relate to national research programme expenditure. They do not include expenditure on relevant research funded from the research and development allocations made to national health service providers. That information is not held centrally.

Swimming

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what swimming organisations will be invited to be members of the Physical Activity Alliance as part of the Change for Life initiative; and if he will make a statement. [263249]

Phil Hope: The Department has pledged to support the creation of a Physical Activity Alliance and is keen to encourage a membership that spans the physical activity sector. However, it is not the Department's role to be prescriptive as to its membership.

The Physical Activity Alliance will shortly be consulting on how it can best fulfil the role set out in the Physical Activity Plan. We would expect any organisation whose aims are compatible with those of the Alliance and willing to abide by its terms of membership to become eligible to join the organisation. This would extend to any swimming organisation.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consultations he has undertaken on the Swim4Life programme as part of the Change for Life initiative; and if he will make a statement. [263250]

Phil Hope: The Change4Life team carried out qualitative research which informed the development of Swim4Life (and other sub-brands).

A toolkit for local supporters is being developed by the Department for Swim4Life to include help, tips and fun pool games for local organisations and families. Materials created by both Swimming Teachers Association and Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) are being reviewed as potential content for this toolkit. ASA are helping us to ensure that all the content that we include in the Swim4Life toolkit is safe and fit for purpose.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what progress the Government has made towards its targets for apprenticeships. [263014]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 12 March 2009]:* This Government have rescued and expanded the apprenticeship programme. We will meet our target of 130,000 completions by 2010-11. Completions have more than trebled since 2001-02, from 39,000 to 113,000 in 2007-08. This means that over the 10-year period from 2001-02, to the end of the CSR period in 2010-11, around 900,000 young people and adults will have successfully completed their apprenticeship. Completion rates also reached an all-time high in 2007-08 of 64 per cent., compared to 48 per cent. in 2005-06. By 2020 we aim to deliver over 250,000 apprenticeship starts and 190,000 successful completions in order to meet the Leitch ambition for apprenticeships in England. We are on track to meet this ambition with a record 225,000 apprenticeship starts in 2007-08.

Astra: Redundancy

Mr. Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many Astra workers who were made redundant in 1993 had not accepted a change to their redundancy conditions and were still covered by the transfer of undertaking arrangements agreed with the Government at the time. [257441]

Mr. Simon: All of the Astra employees who were made redundant in 1993 received statutory redundancy payments in line with their extant entitlements. I understand that it was a revised condition of service that they had to accept changes to their redundancy entitlement, during the course of their employment by Astra, if they wished to remain Astra employees.

Departmental Bank Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills with which banks his Department has or has had contracts for the provision of financial advice, for the financial year 2008-09. [262757]

Mr. Simon: In the 2008-09 financial year, the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills has held a contract with Deutsche Bank for financial advice in respect of the student loan sales programme.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what payments for *(a)* polling and *(b)* other services his Department has made to (i) Deborah Mattinson and (ii) Opinion Leader Research Limited since 31 December 2007; and if he will make a statement. [260987]

Mr. Simon: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) has not made any direct payments to either Deborah Mattinson or Opinion Leader Research (OLR) since its inception in June 2007. However, there

has been one payment through the Central Office of Information to OLR, on behalf of DIUS. This payment was for OLR to organise two citizens' juries, which took place on 10 and 11 December 2007 in London and Hull. This was a joint project between the Department for Communities and Local Government, and DIUS.

The final cost, shared between the two Departments, was £59,615. DIUS made a contribution of £29,807 to this amount, these figures are exclusive of VAT.

Departmental Scientists

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his Department's budget for scientific advice and research is in 2008-09; for what purposes the equivalent budget for 2007-08 was used; and how many people employed in his Department have a science or engineering degree. [260770]

Mr. Lammy: The Department does not have a single dedicated budget for scientific advice and research. A range of research and analysis is commissioned from external providers in support of different policy and delivery objectives and funded from relevant budgets, making a precise evaluation of the size of the total spend difficult. However, in 2007-08 the Department estimates up to £10 million was spent in these areas, and anticipates that the spend for 2008-09 will be of a similar size.

The number of staff with a science and engineering degree are listed in the following table. These details were provided on a voluntary basis, in response to a DIUS staff survey (December 2008)

	Total
Engineering	7
Science	81
Total	88

Departmental Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the Answer of 5 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1734W, on departmental surveys, if he will place in the Library a copy of the results of the most recent staff survey undertaken by his Department. [263645]

Mr. Simon: A copy of the results of the Department's first annual all staff survey which was undertaken in October 2008 has been placed in the House Libraries.

Education: Offenders

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many learner places were funded by the Offender Learning and Skills Service in *(a)* basic literacy, *(b)* basic numeracy and *(c)* other courses in each of the last five years. [262899]

Mr. Simon: The Offender Learning and Skills Service was introduced across England from the start of the 2006/07 academic year.

Learning enrolments	*2006/07*	*2007/08*
Literacy	40,761	50,936
Numeracy	33,590	42,364
Other	165,694	206,639
Total	240,045	299,939

The Learning and Skills Council and its providers determine the number of places available through learner enrolments.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much funding the Offender Learning and Skills Service has provided for *(a)* basic literacy, *(b)* basic numeracy and *(c)* other courses for offenders in each year for which figures are available; and how much it expects to spend in each of the next three years. [262983]

Mr. Simon: The Offender Learning and Skills Service was introduced across England from the start of the 2006-07 academic year.

In 2006-07 the Learning and Skills Council funding through the Offender Learning and Skills Service was:

	£000
Literacy	22,707
Numeracy	18,955
Other courses	64,738
Total	106,400

The equivalent information is not yet available for the 2007-08 academic year.

The Learning and Skills Council is working with National Offender Management Service's Directors of Offender Management in the regions to determine the learning provision to be jointly commissioned in the 2009-10 academic year.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much money was spent by the Offender Learning and Skills Service on training for offenders in each year for which figures are available, broken down by type of course funded. [263093]

Mr. Simon: In the 2006-07 academic year, the first full year in which the Offender Learning and Skills Service operated across the whole of England, the Learning and Skills Council invested a total of £106.4 million which funded 240,045 enrolments. The investment by skills area can be broken down as in the following table:

	£000
	Total
Health, public services and care	5,107
Science and mathematics	686
Agriculture, horticulture and animal care	846
Engineering and manufacturing technologies	1,204
Construction, planning and the built environment	6,979
Information and communication technology	15,553

	£000 Total
Retail and commercial enterprise	4,860
Leisure, travel and tourism	305
Arts, media and publishing	5,745
History, philosophy and theology	458
Social sciences	294
Languages, literature and culture	917
Education and training	897
Preparation for life and work	59,320
Business, administration and law	2,340
Not recorded	891

Data for the 2007-08 academic year will be available shortly.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many learner places were funded by the Offender Learning and Skills Service in each year for which figures are available, broken down by category of learner. [263094]

Mr. Simon: The Offender Learning and Skills Service was introduced across England from the start of the 2006-07 academic year.

Learning enrolments	*2006/07*	*2007/08*
Offenders held in youth detention accommodation.	41,056	46,397
Offenders held in adult detention accommodation.	198,989	253,542

The Learning and Skills Council and its providers determine the number of places available through learner enrolments.

English Language: Education

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the Answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 55-56W, on English language: education, which private providers received funding to deliver courses on English for speakers of other languages in 2008-09; on what basis those providers were chosen; how the courses were delivered; and if he will make a statement. [259137]

Mr. Simon: The Learning and Skills Council provides funding for English for Speakers of Other languages (ESOL) courses to private providers as part of their overall allocation of funding for adult learning. Individualised Learner Record (ILR) data show that around 50 private providers received funding to deliver ESOL courses in 2008-09. It is not possible to list individual providers and these figures do not include Train to Gain as these data are not available at the present time.

Private providers funded by the LSC to deliver ESOL courses are selected by the same process as other providers. The process for choosing providers begins with the LSC's annual Statement of Priorities document which sets out the key policy and investment priorities for the further education sector. Each LSC region produces a Regional Commissioning Statement which sets out the totality of provision to be secured in each region for the next academic year and which sets national priorities in a regional context. Private providers receiving LSC funding to deliver ESOL will be liable to meet the same quality criteria as FE colleges.

On the basis of the priorities and investment set out in these documents, the LSC then enters a commissioning process with its current provider base (which includes private providers) to secure provision for the next academic year.

In some regions, where there has been a strategic need to meet gaps in provision or to improve quality, ESOL provision has been tendered. The LSC commissions providers in light of their performance, the quality of their delivery, their capacity and capability, including their financial health. Allocations and contracts are then agreed with providers based on a planning assumption of the volumes the provider will deliver. Contracts are monitored regularly and robustly for all provision and increases or decreases applied to delivery volumes where appropriate.

ESOL courses are delivered using a variety of methods by accredited ESOL teachers. ESOL Skills for Life qualifications have been designed to meet the needs of the broad range of learners who want to live and work in this country and if, appropriate, intend to become citizens of the UK and are based on the National Standards for Adult Literacy. At levels 1 and 2, the ESOL Skills for Life assess reading through the same national tests as are used for Key Skills Communication qualifications and the level 1 and 2 Certificate in Adult Literacy.

Further Education: Finance

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills with reference to the written ministerial statement of 4 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 55WS, on capital investment (further education colleges), which 79 colleges have been given the first stage of approval in principle by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC); and which 65 colleges have submitted bids to the LSC for approval in principle. [264086]

Mr. Simon: Capital funding for further education colleges is administrated by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). As the information requested pertains to decisions and records held by the Council, I have asked Mark Haysom, the LSC Chief Executive, to write to my hon. Friend with the further information requested. A copy of his letter will be placed in the House Libraries.

Higher Education

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which universities have been classified by the Higher Education Funding Council for England as at risk in each of the last 10 years, broken down by level of risk. [259144]

Mr. Lammy: The Higher Education Funding Council is under a legal duty to consider the financial health of those institutions it funds. The Council's board periodically receives papers on the small number of institutions which are considered to be 'at risk'. Following discussion with the Information Commissioner those papers are published after a suitable interval, to both protect the

financial integrity of that institution and ensure the public interest is maintained. This is set as a minimum period of three years. Data on those institutions at risk extracted from the board's papers are now publicly available and the tables have been placed in the House Libraries.

Higher Education: Admissions

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of young people from each local authority began an undergraduate course at a higher education institution in *(a)* 1997-98 and *(b)* 2007-08. [264034]

Mr. Lammy: The number of young undergraduate entrants from each local authority is shown in the accompanying table.

It is not possible to calculate what proportion of young people from each local authority began an undergraduate course at a UK higher education institution in 2007-08. The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) published "Young participation in higher education" in January 2005, which is available from the HEFCE website at:

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2005/05_03/.

The HEFCE report shows participation rates for young people who enter higher education aged 18 or 19 disaggregated by local education authority (LEA) for the years 1997 to 2000.

At national level, the Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR) covers English-domiciled 17 to 30-year-old first-time entrants to higher education courses, at UK higher education institutions and English, Scottish and Welsh further education colleges, who remain on their course for at least six months. The latest available figure is 39.8 per cent. in 2006-07. For young people (aged 17-20), the figure is 31.6 per cent.

Young[1] undergraduate entrants[2] by local authority[3] UK higher education institutions[4] academic years 1997/98 to 2007/08

Local authority	*1997/98*	*2007/08*
City of London	15	20
Camden	655	960
Greenwich	630	1,130
Hackney	520	1,075
Hammersmith and Fulham	475	750
Islington	465	855
Kensington and Chelsea	610	765
Lambeth	725	1,325
Lewisham	715	1,385
Southwark	635	1,335
Tower Hamlets	465	1,045
Wandsworth	815	1,255
Westminster	620	885
Barking and Dagenham	285	715
Barnet	1,850	2,575
Bexley	695	1,145
Brent	1,405	2,065
Bromley	1,295	1,750
Croydon	1,350	2,175
Ealing	1,500	2,165
Enfield	1,265	1,895
Haringey	790	1,435
Harrow	1,475	2,165
Havering	640	1,020
Hillingdon	905	1,475
Hounslow	1,000	1,405
Kingston upon Thames	590	1,045
Merton	695	1,100
Newham	890	1,880
Redbridge	1,245	2,050
Richmond upon Thames	870	1,250
Sutton	635	1,020
Waltham Forest	825	1,400
Birmingham	3,820	5,060
Coventry	1,135	1,330
Dudley	1,040	1,280
Sandwell	840	1,170
Solihull	955	1,295
Walsall	835	1,095
Wolverhampton	1,040	1,290
Knowsley	265	610
Liverpool	960	1,860
St. Helens	615	675
Sefton	1,215	1,480
Wirral	1,250	1,730
Bolton	1,145	1,205
Bury	730	1,010
Manchester	1,040	1,715
Oldham	705	1,025
Rochdale	760	950
Salford	505	690
Stockport	1,180	1,480
Tameside	635	785
Trafford	1,030	1,385
Wigan	875	1,040
Barnsley	450	690
Doncaster	745	950
Rotherham	725	920
Sheffield	1,410	2,075
Bradford	1,625	2,140
Calderdale	685	865
Kirklees	1,650	1,920
Leeds	2,170	2,935
Wakefield	875	1,090
Gateshead	610	755
Newcastle upon Tyne	805	1,130
North Tyneside	705	835
South Tyneside	485	530
Sunderland	820	1,065
Isles Of Scilly	10	15
Bath and North East Somerset	675	910
Bristol, City of	1,155	1,285
North Somerset	880	990
South Gloucestershire	945	1,110
Hartlepool	250	395
Middlesbrough	485	765
Redcar and Cleveland	555	700
Stockton-on-Tees	765	1,005
Kingston upon Hull, City of	470	690
East Riding of Yorkshire	1,385	1,530
North East Lincolnshire	430	485
North Lincolnshire	580	635
North Yorkshire	2,465	3,030
York	630	780
Bedfordshire	1,640	2,075
Luton	700	1,040
Buckinghamshire	2,720	3,290
Milton Keynes	755	1,075
Derbyshire	2,630	3,100

Young[1] undergraduate entrants[2] by local authority[3] UK higher education institutions[4] academic years 1997/98 to 2007/08

Local authority	*1997/98*	*2007/08*
Derby	840	985
Dorset	1,445	1,865
Poole	465	630
Bournemouth	520	625
Durham	1,610	1,780
Darlington	305	445
East Sussex	1,785	2,165
Brighton and Hove	655	1,005
Hampshire	5,330	6,255
Portsmouth	410	605
Southampton	575	750
Leicestershire	2,750	3,145
Leicester	1,155	1,660
Rutland	205	230
Staffordshire	3,130	3,905
Stoke-on-Trent	555	785
Wiltshire	1,765	2,130
Swindon	410	640
Bracknell Forest	375	505
Windsor and Maidenhead	690	805
West Berkshire	645	730
Reading	415	565
Slough	435	700
Wokingham	815	1,075
Cambridgeshire	2,205	2,515
Peterborough	520	675
Cheshire	3,060	3,740
Halton	310	485
Warrington	660	995
Devon	2,495	3,215
Plymouth	705	975
Torbay	385	460
Essex	4,550	6,245
Southend-on-Sea	545	725
Thurrock	290	505
Herefordshire	640	855
Worcestershire	2,330	2,780
Kent	5,035	6,840
Medway	710	1,150
Lancashire	4,600	4,745
Blackburn and Darwen	480	545
Blackpool	325	320
Nottinghamshire	2,550	3,135
Nottingham	545	850
Shropshire	1,305	1,455
Telford and Wrekin	530	645
Cornwall	1,965	2,280
Cumbria	1,710	2,040
Gloucestershire	2,505	2,820
Hertfordshire	4,665	6,135
Isle of Wight	490	465
Lincolnshire	2,265	2,820
Norfolk	2,455	3,020
Northamptonshire	2,335	3,065
Northumberland	1,355	1,305
Oxfordshire	2,625	3,205
Somerset	1,980	2,410
Suffolk	2,150	3,240
Surrey	5,170	6,425
Warwickshire	2,265	2,580
West Sussex	3,075	3,350
Total England	183,110	240,480
Isle of Anglesey	270	370

Young[1] undergraduate entrants[2] by local authority[3] UK higher education institutions[4] academic years 1997/98 to 2007/08

Local authority	*1997/98*	*2007/08*
Gwynedd	465	645
Conwy	445	690
Denbighshire	355	460
Flintshire	535	650
Wrexham	485	460
Powys	565	730
Ceredigion	330	380
Pembrokeshire	635	620
Carmarthenshire	860	925
City and County of Swansea	1,045	1,135
Neath Port Talbot	545	640
Bridgend	535	740
The Vale of Glamorgan	690	770
Rhondda Cynon Taff	930	1,190
Merthyr Tydfil	185	310
Caerphilly	540	720
Blaenau Gwent	180	230
Torfaen	375	365
Monmouthshire	500	565
Newport	500	695
Cardiff	1,195	1,735
Total Wales	12,155	15,015
Total England and Wales	195,265	255,500
Belfast	810	1,340
Western	1,075	2,195
North Eastern	1,420	2,540
South Eastern	1,575	2,390
Southern	1,305	2,505
Total Northern Ireland	6,185	10,970
Channel Islands	55	970
Aberdeen City	860	925
Aberdeenshire	1,270	1,315
Angus	515	490
Argyll and Bute	425	425
Scottish Borders	515	480
Clackmannanshire	165	155
West Dunbartonshire	295	320
Dumfries and Galloway	615	595
Dundee City	485	515
East Ayrshire	415	505
East Dunbartonshire	905	740
East Lothian	320	435
East Renfrewshire	685	765
City of Edinburgh	1,795	2,070
Falkirk	410	370
Fife	1,290	1,210
Glasgow City	1,480	1,985
Highland	860	1,215
Inverclyde	345	365
Midlothian	290	260
Moray	315	520
North Ayrshire	525	480
North Lanarkshire	1,025	1,260
Orkney Islands	95	130
Perth and Kinross	660	795
Renfrewshire	805	785
Shetland Islands	90	150
South Ayrshire	595	535
South Lanarkshire	1,200	1,515
Stirling	435	355

Young[1] undergraduate entrants[2] by local authority[3] UK higher education institutions[4] academic years 1997/98 to 2007/08

Local authority	*1997/98*	*2007/08*
West Lothian	520	510
Eilean Siar	130	180
Total Scotland	20,345	22,355
Total UK	221,845	289,795
Missing	55,350	55,710

[1] Young refers to entrants aged under 21.
[2] Covers entrants to both full-time and part-time courses.
[3] Local authority is derived from postcode. Those with missing or invalid postcodes will be coded as missing.
[4] Figures exclude the Open University due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants across the time series.
Note:
Figures are on a snapshot basis as 1 December. Figures have been rounded to the nearest five, so components may not sum to totals.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Higher Education: Community Relations

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what projects have been implemented as part of the Prevent strand of Project Contest to combat radicalisation in universities in England and Wales. [263169]

Mr. Lammy: We work with universities and student bodies to support universities in addressing the issues that can drive students into the hands of violent extremist groups.

Specific projects have included:

The publication of guidance for the higher education sector focussed on promoting shared values, fostering a healthy spirit of debate to engage and challenge those that hold extremist views, breaking down segregation among different communities, supporting students who may be at risk, and ensuring that staff and students are aware of their roles in preventing violent extremism.

A two-year student leadership pilot, run by Youth at Risk, that aims to improve student leadership skills and develop communities built on trust.

A project run by the Institute of Community Cohesion that is gathering information on social cohesion through a series of surveys and focus groups.

Funding for police forces so they can work with local universities to help implement the guidance mentioned above.

Local authorities and Government offices have been tasked with involving their local education institutions within their own local Prevent implementation arrangements.

Higher Education: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of school leavers resident in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire went on to higher education in each of the last 10 years. [263062]

Mr. Lammy: The following table shows the number of 18-year-old entrants to undergraduate courses from Hemel Hempstead constituency and Hertfordshire local authority. It is not possible to identify the number of school leavers from these areas who did not enter higher education in order to produce a participation rate.

18-year-old undergraduate entrants[1] from Hemel Hempstead constituency[2] and Hertfordshire local authority[2], UK higher education institutions[3], academic years 1998/99 to 2007/08

	18-year-old entrants	
Academic year	*Hemel Hempstead*	*Hertfordshire*
1998/99	245	2,970
1999/2000	230	2,960
2000/01	220	3,020
2001/02	250	3,030
2002/03	245	3,145
2003/04	255	4,150
2004/05	245	3,430
2005/06	290	3,885
2006/07	265	3,775
2007/08	310	3,815

[1] Covers entrants studying both full-time and part-time courses.
[2] Parliamentary constituency and local authority are defined by full and valid home postcodes, returned by the student to HESA.
[3] Excludes the Open university due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants over the time series.
Note:
Figures are based on a snapshot as at 1 December and are rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Higher Education: Research

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much research funding his Department will provide to university science and technology departments in the next four years. [262916]

Mr. Lammy: The Department provides research funding to universities through the Science and Research Budget and also, for English universities, through the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

The allocations in the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review for the Science and Research Budget are: £3,554 million in 2008-09; £3,715 million in 2009-10; and £3,970 million in 2010-11. Most of this budget is allocated to the research councils which they use to fund research at universities and other research institutes.

Additionally, HEFCE provides quality-related research funding to English universities. The CSR07 allocations are: £1,444 million in 2008-09; £1,509 million in 2009-10, and £1,634 million in 2010-11. HEFCE also provides capital grants to universities to ensure the maintenance of world-class research facilities. The allocations are: £291 million in 2008-09; £366 million in 2009-10, and £167 million in 2010-11. The 2010-11 figures are indicative and will be finalised in early 2010.

Metrication

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what discussions he has had with *(a)* other Government departments, *(b)* local authorities and *(c)* other groups following his announcement in October 2008 of the intention of deterring prosecutions of people selling goods in imperial measures. [250345]

Mr. Lammy: Neither I nor any of my ministerial colleagues in the Department have had discussions. However, officials in the Department have held discussions on enforcement of the law in this area with:

(a) The Department of Communities and Local Government

The Local Better Regulation Office

(b) The Local Authorities Co-ordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS)

(c) The Trading Standards Institute

The British Weights and Measures Association

Opinion Leader Research

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much *(a)* his Department and its predecessors and *(b)* its agencies have paid Opinion Leader Research in each financial year since 2003-04. [260888]

Mr. Simon: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) was created as a result of machinery of Government changes in June 2007. Information on how much was paid to Opinion Leader Research (OLR) prior to this date is held by predecessor Departments.

Neither DIUS nor its agencies have made any direct payments to Opinion Leader Research (OLR) since its inception in June 2007. However, there has been one payment through the Central Office of Information (COI) to OLR, on behalf of DIUS. This payment was for OLR to organise two citizens' juries, which took place on 10 and 11 December 2007 in London and Hull. This was a joint project between the Department for Communities and Local Government, and DIUS.

The final cost, shared between the two Departments, was £59,615. DIUS made a contribution of £29,807 to this amount, these figures are exclusive of VAT.

Student Wastage: Higher Education

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what information his Department collects on *(a)* university completion rates and *(b)* reasons for non-completion of university courses. [264152]

Mr. Lammy: The latest information from the performance indicators in higher education shows that the percentage of UK domiciled full-time first degree starters at English higher education institutions, who were expected to neither gain an award nor transfer to another institution, was 13.9 per cent. in the 2005-06 academic year. Figures for 2006/07 will be available in June.

We are maintaining very good completion rates for first degrees with the latest statistics from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development showing that the UK ranks third of the 27 countries reporting data in this area. This has been achieved and maintained during a period when higher education has been opened up to both increased numbers and a greater diversity of students.

The latest available information on reasons for leaving higher education courses is shown in the table.

UK domiciled full-time first degree enrolments who left their course English higher education institutions academic year 2007/08

Reason for leaving	*Enrolments*
Successful completion of course	202,405
Academic failure/left in bad standing/not permitted to progress	9,310
Transferred to another institution	2,210
Health reasons	900
Death	115
Financial reasons	705
Other personal reasons and dropped out	12,130
Written off after lapse of time	2,175
Exclusion	675
Gone into employment	880
Other	5,355
Completion of course—result unknown	390
Unknown	1,150
Total who left without having transferred	236,190
Total who left in academic year	238,400

Note:
Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded to the nearest five, so components may not sum to totals.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

The reason for leaving information on the HESA Student Record should be treated with some caution, because the 'Other personal reasons and dropped out' and 'Other' fields are used extensively. Institutions are not always able to record the precise reason for leaving. Furthermore, HESA allows only one reason for withdrawal to be recorded, however it is likely that many students leave for a combination of reasons.

Students: Loans

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the Answer of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1337-38W, on students: loans, (1) how many applications for career development loans have been *(a)* made and *(b)* granted in each of the last five years; [261341]

(2) how many career development loans have been awarded in each of the last five years; and how many have been awarded in 2008-09 to date. [263295]

Mr. Simon: Applications for Career Development Loans are made direct to the banks engaged in the programme; details of applications that are unsuccessful are not made available to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) which administers the programme. The LSC collect information relating to loans that have been agreed by the banks.

The numbers of loans made in the last five full financial years and this year in Great Britain are set out in the table. The LSC believes that the lower numbers in 2007-08 and during this year reflect the adoption of tighter lending strategies by banks, but not a reduction in demand from learners.

"New Opportunities: Fair Chances for the Future" set out that Government would make funding available to increase the number of loans.

The banks have agreed to work with the Department and the LSC to agree the terms of an expanded programme which would include the higher maximum loan value of £10,000. I expect the increase in opportunities that Professional and Career Development Loans will offer in 2009-10 and 2010-11 to be taken up in response to increased, targeted marketing and as people continue to need to re-skill in response to the impact of the economic downturn.

Career development loans made in Great Britain

	Number
2003-04	17,331
2004-05	15,273
2005-06	17,840
2006-07	12,197
2007-08	9,145
2008-09 to 9 March 2009	7,580

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what amount of mortgage-style student loans taken out before 1998 is yet to be repaid. [261909]

Mr. Lammy: The total amount of mortgage-style student loans taken out before 1998 which has yet to be repaid stood, at 31 March 2008, at £962.3 million. At this date, 56 per cent. of borrowers with mortgage-style loans had fully repaid their loans. These are provisional figures which will be updated in the Statistical First Release due to be published in the summer of 2009.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many live accounts are held by the Student Loans Company in relation to which no repayment is currently being received, broken down by reason for the lack of repayment. [261916]

Mr. Lammy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the then Minister of State for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education on 10 September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1939-41W. The response remains the same because the information published on 10 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1938W is based on the Statistical First Release which remains the latest published information available.

It is not currently possible to disclose information for the period after 31 March 2008 because, following National Statistics protocol, the statistics for the period ended 31 March 2009 will be embargoed until their publication in the Statistical First Release due in June/July 2009.

Union Learning Fund

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Chichester of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 396W, on the political levy, what funding his Department has provided to trades unions through the Union Learning Fund to promote awareness and understanding of trades union members' right to opt out of political funds. [258584]

Mr. Simon: The Union Learning Fund does not provide funding to trade unions to promote awareness of trade union members' right to opt out of political funds. Its primary objective is to help trade unions and their Union Learning Representatives drive up the demand for learning in the workplace.

There are now over 20,500 trained Union Learning Representatives who have helped more than 600,000 workers into learning since the Union Learning Fund was introduced. Over 200,000 were helped last year alone, many from those hard to reach groups who employers and training providers find it so difficult to engage with, including over 34,000 workers with poor basic literacy and numeracy skills.

With their real-life experience and credibility in the workplace, Union Learning Representatives inspire trust and foster ambition in others, giving them the confidence to seek new ways to improve their skills. They are making a big difference to the lives of working people right across the country, helping them to learn new skills and update existing ones and giving them a real stake in the future.

That is why we will continue to support the Union Learning Fund and unionlearn, the TUC's learning and skills organisation, to develop and promote the work of Union Learning Representatives so that by 2010 there will be 22,000 trained Union Learning Representatives helping over 250,000 workers back into learning each year.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of time taken was to make a decision on the asylum claims of people in receipt of section 4 support in each of the last five years. [258001]

Mr. Woolas: Support under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 is available for failed asylum seekers who are temporarily prevented from leaving the United Kingdom through no fault of their own.

Information on the time taken to reach an initial decision on asylum applications made by people subsequently in receipt of section 4 support can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Asylum: Detainees

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many failed asylum seekers were detained in the immigration detention estate on 28 February 2009; [263202]

(2) how many people were detained in the immigration detention estate on 28 February 2009, broken down by nationality. [263203]

Mr. Woolas: Published national statistics on persons (including those who had claimed asylum at some stage) held in detention solely under Immigration Act powers on a snapshot basis are published quarterly. Information on persons detained as at 27 December 2008 by country of nationality has been published in Table J of the Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom—4th Quarter 2008 supplementary

tables, which are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Comparable information for March 2009 will be published on 20 May.

It is not possible to say, within these statistics, how many of the detainees are failed asylum seekers.

Asylum: Housing

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers were living in National Asylum Support Service-funded dispersal accommodation on 1 January 2009. [263210]

Mr. Woolas: The National Asylum Support Service (NASS) no longer exists, although its functions continue to be exercised by the UK Border Agency.

Published statistics take a snapshot of asylum seekers supported at the end of the quarter. As at the end of December 2008, there were 25,145 asylum seekers recorded as supported in accommodation in the United Kingdom. This excludes any asylum seekers in initial accommodation and unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

Information on asylum support is published annually and quarterly in the Control of Immigration statistical bulletins. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many houses were rented by her Department under the National Asylum Support Service scheme on 1 January 2009. [263211]

Mr. Woolas: The National Asylum Support Service (NASS) no longer exists, although its functions continue to be exercised by the UK Border Agency. The UK Border Agency has 28 contracts with providers to supply accommodation for eligible asylum seekers. To collate the accommodation they provide to accommodate asylum seekers would be disproportionate cost.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on housing under the National Asylum Support Service scheme in 2008. [263212]

Mr. Woolas: The National Asylum Support Service no longer exists. Its functions have been taken by the UK Border Agency. In the calendar year 2008, the UK Border Agency and its predecessor the Border and Immigration Agency, spent £214 million on accommodation for asylum seekers.

Biometrics: Airports

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many airports were using iris-recognition technology systems on 28 February 2009. [263198]

Mr. Woolas: Four airports, Heathrow, Gatwick, Manchester and Birmingham, were using IRIS technology systems on 28 February 2009.

British Nationality

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many citizenship ceremonies have been conducted in each *(a)* English region and *(b)* London local authority area in each of the last two years. [261861]

Mr. Woolas: The available data for 2006 and 2007 are given in the following table. Data for 2008 are scheduled for publication in May 2009.

Statistics on persons attending a British citizenship ceremony by region of the United Kingdom and authority 2006-07 are published in table 8 of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin "Persons Granted British Citizenship United Kingdom, 2007". This publication may be obtained from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Persons attending a British citizenship ceremony by English region and London local authority 2006[1]-07[2]

		Ceremony attended[3,4]	
English region	*Local authority*	*2006*	*2007*
North East		1,420	1,705
North West		6,345	6,770
Yorkshire and the Humber		4,790	4,850
East Midlands		4,625	4,925
West Midlands		7,775	7,595
East of England		6,715	7,975
South East		12,145	14,640
South West		2,810	3,875
Greater London	Barking and Dagenham	1,410	1,615
	Barnet	2,375	2,830
	Bexley	550	605
	Borough of Sutton (London)	590	850
	Brent	3,260	3,465
	Bromley	700	865
	Camden	1,725	1,890
	Corporation of the city of London	90	90
	Croydon	1,910	2,160
	Ealing	3,150	3,875
	Enfield	2,660	2,345
	Greenwich	1,400	1,560
	Hackney	2,240	1,830
	Hammersmith and Fulham	1,550	1,580
	Haringey	2,425	2,240
	Harrow	1,900	2,365
	Havering	355	450
	Hillingdon	1,490	1,955
	Hounslow	2,080	2,280

Persons attending a British citizenship ceremony by English region and London local authority 2006[1]-07[2]

English region	Local authority	Ceremony attended[3,4] 2006	2007
	Islington	1,660	1,685
	Kensington and Chelsea	1,165	1,300
	Kingston upon Thames	705	1,055
	Lambeth	2,285	2,245
	Lewisham	1,685	2,140
	Merton	1,535	1,775
	Newham	3,085	3,075
	Redbridge	1,800	1,915
	Richmond upon Thames	730	810
	Southwark	2,460	2,755
	Tower Hamlets	1,890	1,370
	Waltham Forest	1,860	1,860
	Wandsworth	2,145	2,345
	Westminster	2,125	2,515
	Total (Greater London)	56,995	61,690
Total (England)		103,615	114,025

[1] Figures have been revised since the previous issue of this bulletin, for example to include late returns.
[2] Provisional data.
[3] A ceremony organised by county or local authorities for successful applicants over 18 years of age as the final stage in the process of attaining British citizenship.
[4] Data rounded to the nearest 5.

Community Service Orders: Young People

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many young people aged between 13 and 19 years have served a community service order in *(a)* England, *(b)* the north-east and *(c)* Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last five years. [262913]

Mr. Hanson: I have been asked to reply.

The Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 replaced the community service order with the community punishment order (CPO) for young offenders between the ages of 16 years and 17 years. This order is not available for children between the ages of 13 years and 15 years. Young offenders between the ages of 16 and 17 years may also be sentenced to the community punishment and rehabilitation order (CPRO), which combines community punishment with a period of supervision by a member of a Youth Offending Team.

Following the implementation of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 in April 2005, community punishment orders were replaced by the unpaid work requirement of the community or suspended sentence order for offenders over 18 years of age.

The number of young offenders between the ages of 16 and 19 years who commenced community punishment or community punishment and rehabilitation orders in England and Wales and the north-east region during the last five years, as well as the number of unpaid work requirements started, is shown in the following tables.

England and Wales

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
CPO	10,833	10,787	7,227	3,262	3,212
CPRO	3,405	3,761	2,650	1,116	1,246
Unpaid work	—	—	5,237	13,569	15,861

North-east region

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
CPO	473	429	345	161	150
CPRO	295	318	201	93	78
Unpaid work	—	—	295	916	1,081

It is not possible to provide sentencing data by constituency.

Matters arising in Scotland and Northern Ireland are for the Scottish Government and the Northern Ireland Office respectively.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Departmental Air Travel

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many official journeys *(a)* she and her predecessors and *(b)* her officials made by plane in each of the last five years. [247504]

Mr. Woolas: This information is available only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Bank Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with which banks her Department has or has had contracts for the provision of financial advice, for the financial year 2008-09. [262766]

Mr. Woolas: From best available records, the Home Department, inclusive of its agencies, does not hold and has not held contracts for the provision of financial advice for the financial year 2008-09.

Departmental Databases

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend, East of 5 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 598W, on departmental databases, by what means her Department uses ACORN data to target its communications. [250427]

Mr. Woolas: We use ACORN to target our marketing campaigns by geographical location, and demographic factors. For example we target responsible drinking messages at young people.

Departmental Lost Property

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what property has been lost or stolen from her Department in the last 12 months; and what the estimated cost was of replacement of such property. [263109]

Mr. Woolas: The Department's recorded losses and thefts for 2007-08 were 10 stolen assets, at a total value of £8,905.

The replacement cost of this property cannot be identified, without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental policy is that every reasonable effort is to be made to minimise the possibility of loss or theft of property; and that whenever fraud occurs it is to be investigated with disciplinary action being taken against those who have engaged in it.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been claimed in reimbursable expenses by special advisers in her Department in 2008-09 to date. [260358]

Mr. Woolas: The Department's 2008-09 resource accounts will disclose the salary, social security and pension cost of its special advisers. These resource accounts will also disclose the reimbursable expenses of all staff, including special advisers. The reimbursable expenses specifically of special advisers, is not separately disclosed. These resource accounts are expected to be laid before the 2009 summer recess.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what payments for *(a)* polling and *(b)* other services her Department has made to (i) Deborah Mattinson and (ii) Opinion Leader Research Limited since 31 December 2007; and if she will make a statement. [260991]

Mr. Woolas: None.

Departmental Public Relations

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of her Department's contracts with public relations consultancies was in each of the last five years. [251253]

Mr. Woolas: The following table provides the total spend on contracts with public relations consultancies for each of the last five financial years. It also includes a breakdown of the total by project.

Project	*Cost (£)*
2003-04	
Total	512,910
Security Industry Authority	150,573
Child Protection on the Internet	70,000
Domestic Violence	75,000
Antisocial Behaviour	140,446
Distraction Burglary	76,900
2004-05	
Total	1,032,653
Queen's Awards	62,890
Criminal Justice	312,137
Alcohol Strategy	241,208
Holocaust Memorial Day	47,179
Acquisitive Crime Reduction	213,403
Security Industry Authority	39,325
Mental Health Project	64,815
Year of the Volunteer	46,757
Familial Homicide	4,940
2005-06	
Total	1,575,216
Antisocial Behaviour	340,971
Security Industry Authority	20,009
Year of the Volunteer	74,027
Criminal Justice	273,263
Tackling Violent Crime	158,799
High Potential Development Scheme	40,000
Tackling Drugs, Changing Lives PR	204,670
Serious Organised Crime Agency	48,430
Communities	100,330
FRANK stakeholder support	314,716
2006-07	
Total	857,091
Community sentencing	258,491
FRANK Stakeholder support	338,310
Security Industry Authority	680
Police Community Support Officers Recruitment	115,891
High Potential Development Scheme	28,716
Respect	59,303
Single Non-Emergency Number	29,186
Drugs and Crime	26,515
2007-08	
Total	290,584
FRANK stakeholder support	290,584

Departmental Scientists

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's budget for scientific advice and research is in 2008-09; for what purposes the equivalent budget for 2007-08 was used; and how many people employed in her Department have a science or engineering degree. [260764]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office does not have a single research budget; it has science and research teams embedded in the main delivery areas, science funding is delegated across the Department to fund the science and research necessary within their directorate. The amount allocated to science and research in any one year is based on individual unit's business needs and therefore varies annually. The funding allocation for 2008-09 was approximately £50 million.

The equivalent budget for 2007-08 was £51 million and was spent on physical sciences, engineering, social research, operational research, economic analysis and statistics. More information on how the Home Office uses science can be found in the Home Office science and innovation strategy; see:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/science-research

The Home Office employs around 195 scientists working on science and engineering delivery. Our systems do not hold information on the numbers of science and engineering degrees held by individuals. This information could not be collected without incurring disproportionate cost.

Illegal Immigrants

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate her Department has made of the numbers of people in the UK illegally; and if she will make a statement. [263200]

Mr. Woolas: Since the phasing-out of embarkation controls in 1994 no Government have ever been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally. By its very nature it is impossible to quantify accurately and that remains the case.

As part of the Government's 10-point plan for delivery, by 2010 over 95 per cent. of non-European Economic Area foreign nationals will be counted in and out of the country, rising to 100 per cent. by 2014. This is part of a sweeping programme of border protection which also includes the global roll-out of fingerprint visas, watch-list checks for all travellers before they arrive or depart from the UK and ID cards for foreign nationals.

The Government's plans, set out in 'Enforcing the Deal', published on 19 June 2008, set a clear goal to target and remove the most harmful people first, working with local authorities and enforcement agencies to shut down the privileges of the UK to those breaking the rules.

Copies of this document are placed in the Library of the House. It is also available to view at:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/managingourborders/enforcementbusinessplan08_09/enforcementbusinessplan08_09.pdf?view=Binary

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* UK and *(b)* overseas-based lorry drivers were issued with fines for smuggling illegal immigrants into the UK in 2008. [263208]

Mr. Woolas: There have been 1,766 processed cases involving lorry drivers who were served with penalties for smuggling immigrants into the UK during 2008.

This figure can be broken down as follows:

(a) 195 UK lorry drivers

(b) 1,571 overseas drivers

Some penalties issued during the last two quarters of 2008 are still to be processed.

These figures have been sourced from locally collated management information held within locally accessed computer systems and do not represent National Statistics. They have not been the subject of National Statistics protocols and verification and should therefore be treated as provisional and subject to change.

Illegal Immigrants: Detainees

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants were being held in police detention on 28 February 2009. [263213]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested could be obtained only by the detailed examination of individual records which would be at disproportionate cost.

Immigration

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the evidential basis is for the Minister for Borders and Immigration disagreeing with the Office for National Statistics' figures on the number of the British population who are born abroad. [264039]

Mr. Woolas: This Government established the UK Statistics Authority, the executive office of which is the Office for National Statistics. These bodies report directly to Parliament.

I made it clear that my concerns were not with the figures themselves but rather the news release published at short-notice on 11 February 2009 entitled "UK Born and Non UK Born Employment" and the way these figures, taken together, can be used by others.

The figure of 6.5 million people (one in nine of the total population) born overseas and resident in the UK, published by the Office for National Statistics on 24 February 2009, is a wide definition which includes British nationals born overseas (for example children whose parents are in the armed forces). The 4.1 million figure (one in 15 of the total population) provides a better indication of the nationality of those resident in the UK.

They also include people who are here temporarily (working or students).

We will continue to use the Points-Based System to ensure that we are doing the right thing by British workers and for the long-term stability of the economy. Given the economic circumstances and the action we are taking to be more selective, we expect the number of migrants coming to the UK from outside the European Economic Area to fall during the next financial year.

Immigration Controls: Educational Institutions

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions there have been between her Department and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills on the requirements placed upon higher and further education institutions under Tier 4 of the immigration controls established in 2008. [261849]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 9 March 2009]:* The phased implementation of Tier 4 of the Points Based System, which has been agreed with the education sector and Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills, commenced on 28 July 2008, when the UK Border Agency started accepting sponsor licence applications from educational institutions that wish to bring students from outside the European Economic Area to the UK for study. The Statement of Changes to the Immigration Rules (HC 314) laid before the House on 9 March 2009 marks the start of the second phase: from 31 March 2009, only UK Border Agency licensed institutions will be able to bring students to the UK, and student applicants will need to meet the Tier 4 points test before being granted leave to enter or remain.

The Joint Education Taskforce is the UK Border Agency's principal mechanism for consultation with the education sector and has been running since 2005. The JET comprises senior figures and representative

bodies from all parts of the education sector, including higher and further education and officials from DIUS, and it and its sub-groups meet on a regular basis.

In addition, throughout the development of Tier 4, the Home Department has had numerous meetings with DIUS and the education sector at both ministerial and official level. There has also been frequent ministerial and official correspondence between both Departments and the sector, regarding the requirements of the new system upon higher and further education institutions.

Immigration: Families

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consultation her Department undertook before deciding to withdraw the seven year concession on removal of families. [251838]

Mr. Woolas: Wide debate and consultation was undertaken across the relevant UK Border Agency departments and with Ministers before withdrawing the concession and applying a much more structured consideration to all family cases under the Immigration Rules and the European Convention on Human Rights. I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement of 9 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 49WS.

Members: Correspondence

Clare Short: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the inquiry of 23 October 2008 from the right hon. Member for Birmingham, Ladywood on Noreen Akhtar (reference A1048872). [259929]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency responded to the email from my right hon. Friend on 6 March 2009.

National Security

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what meetings Ministers in her Department have had with groups of British Muslims on the possible effects of events in Gaza since 27 December 2008 on domestic security levels; and what the names were of the individuals who attended each meeting. [252090]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 27 January 2009]:* On 8 January I met individuals from the Shah Jahal mosque, Bristol and on 15 January the Communities Secretary, the Home Secretary, the Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr. Khan) and I met representatives and individuals from a number of organisations, including the Sufi Muslim Council, Al Khoei Foundation, the National Muslim Women's Advisory Group, the Ithna Asheri Khoja Shia World Federation, Association of Muslim Social Scientists, the Muslim Cultural Heritage Centre, Active Change Foundation, and Quilliam Foundation.

Offenders: Personal Records

Mr. Ames: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department under what circumstances information from the Police National Computer is sold; to whom it may be sold; what charges may be made; and if she will make a statement. [259059]

Mr. Coaker: The Police National Computer is operated and managed by the National Policing Improvement Agency on behalf of the police service.

The cost of operation and management is charged to users (police forces in England, Wales (Scotland, Northern Ireland)) and the following bodies which are authorised by information access principles:

1. Access Northern Ireland
2. British Transport Police
3. Charity Commission
4. Civil Nuclear Constabulary
5. Courts (Warrant Enforcement)
6. Criminal case Review Commission
7. Criminal Records Bureau
8. Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Litigations and Prosecutions
9. Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform
10. Department for Transport
11. Department of Works and Pensions Solicitors
12. Disclosure Scotland
13. Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority
14. Environment Agency
15. Financial Services Authority
16. Foreign and Commonwealth Office
17. Guernsey Police
18. Health and Safety Executive
19. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary
20. Highways Agency
21. Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs
22. Home Office
23. Independent Police Complaints Commission
24. Isle of Man Police
25. Jersey Police
26. Mersey Tunnel Police
27. Ministry of Defence (MOD) Police
28. Ministry Of Justice
29. MOD Defence Vetting Agency
30. National Air Traffic Services Ltd.
31. National Offender Management Service
32. National Health Service Counter Fraud
33. Office for Civil Nuclear Security
34. Office of fair Trading
35. Port of Tilbury Police
36. Prison Service
37. Royal Military Police
38. Security Services
39. Service Police Crime Bureau
40. Serious Organised Crime Agency (Domestic)
41. Serious Organised Crime Agency (International)
42. United Kingdom Border Agency
43. Vehicle and Operator Services Agency

Stop and Account

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police forces ceased using the stop and account form following the removal of the requirement to do so. [262348]

Jacqui Smith: From 1 January 2009, police forces in England and Wales are no longer required to complete a form when a stop and account is carried out. The only datum required to be recorded is that of ethnicity. The recording of that data is a matter for the chief officer of each individual police force.

Terrorism

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what progress has been made in implementing counter-terrorism local profiles to enable the sharing of information between local authority chief executives and police borough commanders. [263167]

Mr. Coaker: Guidance was sent to police counter-terrorism environments in January, and counter-terrorism local profiles are currently under production by forces. Some have already been completed and delivered to basic command unit commanders and local authority chief executives. We are working with Association of Chief Police Officers and forces to support the delivery of CTLPs for priority areas in the 24 forces in receipt of PREVENT funding by June, and all other areas by 31 August.

UK Border Agency: Complaints

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints regarding staff the UK Border Agency received in 2008. [263204]

Mr. Woolas: There were 636 recorded complaints made by members of the public against UK Border Agency staff in 2008.

There were 105 recorded complaints made by UK Border Agency staff against other UK Border Agency staff in 2008.

UK Border Agency: Correspondence

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Chief Executive of the UK Border Agency will reply to the hon. Member for Weston-super-Mare's, letters of 18 November 2008 and 5 January 2009 on behalf of his constituent, Mr. Richard Roller. [253132]

Mr. Woolas: Visa Services Directorate replied to the hon. Member's correspondence on 9 March. The Directorate apologises for the delay in replying. However, the Border Agency has no record of receiving the correspondence originally and Visa Services Directorate obtained a copy from the hon. Member's office on 2 February.

UK Border Agency: Data Protection

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officials in the UK Border Agency are authorised to access electronic files and databases relating to an individual's *(a)* immigration status, *(b)* asylum application and *(c)* passport application. [254445]

Mr. Woolas: UK Border Agency officials are authorised to access the Case Information Database (CID). It performs a vital role as the main system for case-working applications and checking immigration status. CID is also the sole system for the processing of asylum applications. There are approximately 16,000 registered users across the Agency; all of them are security cleared and trained to use the system. The system is subject to stringent security and data protection processes and is monitored regularly to ensure compliance with these areas.

Passport applications are handled separately by the Identity and Passport Service.

UK Border Agency: Marketing

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of the UK Border Agency's 2008-09 budget is allocated for publicity and promotional purposes. [263206]

Mr. Woolas: The proportion of the UK Border Agency's budget for 2008-09 allocated for publicity and promotion is 0.38 per cent.

This includes £2 million on marketing and £3.3 million on advertising and promotion.

Work Permits

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2057W, on work permits: how many individuals obtained a work permit on the basis of an intracompany transfer for *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* 2008. [259185]

Mr. Woolas: Intracompany Transfers are an important part of making the UK an attractive place in which to do business. Changes introduced under the points based system means that companies are limited to a pre-set yearly allocation of Certificates of Sponsorship. This allocation is reviewed annually to ensure that numbers required are fully justified.

The following table shows the number of work permit applications approved for intracompany transfers for 2004 and 2008 broken down by industry sector.

Number of individual work permit intra-company transfer applications approved for 2004 and 2008 broken down by industry sector

Industry sector	*2004*	*2008*
Administration, business and management services	5,250	6,690
Agriculture activities	15	25
Computer services	16,540	25,740
Construction and land services	510	880
Education and cultural activities	215	250
Entertainment and leisure services	165	220
Extraction industries	955	1,115
Financial services	3,825	5,275
Fish processing—SBS	•	—
Government	30	20
Health and medical services	420	455
Hospitality—SBS	•	—
Hospitality and catering	230	90
Law related services	290	340
Manufacturing	1,975	2,415
Meat processing SBS	—	—
Other food processing—SBS	—	5
Real estate and property services	25	45

Number of individual work permit intra-company transfer applications approved for 2004 and 2008 broken down by industry sector

Industry sector	2004	2008
Retail and related services	430	550
Security and protection services	30	115
Sporting activities	10	10
Telecommunications	890	2,460
Transport	570	680
Utilities—gas, electric, water	405	635
Total	32,770	48,010

"•" Indicates one or two.
"—" Indicates nil.

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to nearest 5.
2. Because of rounding, figures may not add up to totals shown.
3. The industry sectors are not based on the ONS Standard Industrial Classification (SIC).
4. The figures quoted are not provided under national statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Caveats:
The figures do not equate to the number of individual nationals who were granted permits because they include those applications approved to extend or amend an existing permit or where the individual has moved to another job with a different employer. Not all those who were granted a permit took up the job and some may have been refused entry clearance or further leave to remain.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2057W, on work permits, how many applications for a work permit on the basis of an intracompany transfer in respect of non-UK nationals were *(a)* made and *(b)* granted in each year since 1997. [259186]

Mr. Woolas: Intracompany transfers are an important part of making the UK an attractive place in which to do business. Changes introduced under the points based system means that companies are limited to a pre-set yearly allocation of Certificates of Sponsorship. This allocation is reviewed annually to ensure that numbers required are fully justified.

The following table shows the number of work permit applications made and approved for intracompany transfers in each year for the period 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2008.

Number of individual work permit intra-company transfer applications made and approved in each year for the period 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2008

	Applications made	Applications approved
2000	26,900	26,155
2001	28,200	27,440
2002	27,400	26,100
2003	28,350	27,385
2004	33,645	32,770
2005	34,680	33,745
2006	43,950	43,050
2007	50,225	48,735
2008	49,710	48,010
Total	323,060	313,385

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to nearest 5.
2. Because of rounding, figures may not add up to totals shown.
3. The figures quoted are not provided under national statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Caveats:
The figures do not equate to the number of individual nationals who were granted permits because they include those applications approved to extend or amend an existing permit or where the individual has moved to another job with a different employer. Not all those who were granted a permit took up the job and some may have been refused entry clearance or further leave to remain.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2057W, on work permits, how many non-UK nationals of each nationality obtained a work permit on the basis of an intracompany transfer in *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* 2008. [259187]

Mr. Woolas: The following table shows the number of work permit applications approved for intra-company transfers in 2004 and 2008 broken down by Nationality.

Number of individual work permit intra—company transfer applications approved for 2004 and 2008 broken down by nationality

Nationality	2004	2008
Afghanistan	5	15
Albania	5	5
Algeria	15	25
Andorra	•	—
Angola	10	25
Argentina	65	85
Armenia	10	•
Australia	1,285	1,380
Azerbaijan	55	40
Bahamas	5	•
Bahrain	•	5
Bangladesh	20	15
Barbados	5	•
Belarus	5	10
Belize	—	—
Benin	•	—
Bolivia	5	5
Bosnia-Herzegovina	•	10
Botswana	•	10
Brazil	185	275
British national overseas	45	10
British Overseas CITZ.	—	—
Brunei	5	—
Bulgaria	50	45
Burkina Faso	—	—
Burma	—	10
Burundi	•	•
Cambodia	•	•
Cameroon	5	10
Canada	745	730
Cape Verde	•	—
Chad	•	—
Chile	20	20
China	395	695
Colombia	60	85
Comoros	—	•
Congo	•	5
Costa Rica	15	5
Croatia	20	30
Cuba	5	•
Cyprus	5	—
Czech republic	25	—
Djibouti	•	•
Dominica	•	•
Dominican Republic	•	•
Ecuador	5	5
Egypt	55	150
El Salvador	•	5
Eritrea	•	—
Ethiopia	5	5
Fiji	—	•

Number of individual work permit intra—company transfer applications approved for 2004 and 2008 broken down by nationality

Nationality	2004	2008
Gabon	—	•
Gambia	•	•
Georgia	20	5
Ghana	15	15
Grenada	•	•
Guatemala	—	5
Guinea	—	—
Guyana	•	•
Haiti	•	•
Honduras	5	5
Hong Kong (British)	10	5
Hong Kong (Chinese)	35	20
Hungary	50	—
India	17,860	31,090
Indonesia	45	65
Iran	30	40
Iraq	•	20
Israel	95	100
Ivory coast	—	5
Jamaica	10	5
Japan	2,065	2,010
Jordan	15	5
Kazakhstan	70	80
Kenya	40	65
Kosovo	—	•
Kuwait	5	5
Kyrgyzstan	•	5
Laos	•	—
Latvia	5	—
Lebanon	25	50
Liberia	—	—
Libya	15	30
Lithuania	•	—
Macedonia	5	5
Madagascar	—	•
Malawi	5	•
Malaysia	220	405
Maldives	—	—
Mali	—	5
Malta	10	—
Mauritius	10	15
Mexico	80	140
Moldova	5	45
Monaco	—	•
Mongolia	—	—
Morocco	15	25
Mozambique	•	•
Namibia	5	•
Nepal	•	15
New Zealand	200	160
Nicaragua	—	—
Niger	—	—
Nigeria	120	95
North Korea	—	—
Oman	5	5
Pakistan	185	240
Palestine	•	•
Panama	5	5
Papua New Guinea	—	—
Paraguay	5	—
Peru	15	15
Philippines	160	300
Poland	75	—
Qatar	—	•
Romania	90	110
Russia	210	350
Rwanda	—	•
Samoa	—	—
Saudi Arabia	25	15
Senegal	5	10
Serbia	10	10
Seychelles	•	—
Sierra Leone	•	—
Singapore	175	185
Slovakia	5	—
Slovenia	5	—
Somalia	•	•
South Africa	625	545
South Korea	275	245
Sri Lanka	60	150
St. Kitts	—	—
St. Lucia	5	•
Stateless	—	—
Sudan	•	5
Surinam	—	•
Swaziland	•	—
Switzerland	—	—
Syria	5	5
Tadzhikistan	5	•
Taiwan	90	105
Tanzania	10	5
Thailand	90	65
Togo	•	•
Trinidad and Tobago	35	45
Tunisia	10	20
Turkey	215	195
Turkmenistan	•	5
Uganda	10	10
Ukraine	40	60
United Arab Emirates	5	5
United states	5,940	6,855
Uruguay	5	10
Uzbekistan	10	20
Venezuela	35	40
Vietnam	10	25
Yemen Republic of	—	—
Yugoslavia	5	5
Zaire	•	—
Zambia	5	10
Zimbabwe	55	20
Total	32,770	48,010

"•" Indicates 1 or 2
"—" Indicates Nil

Notes:
1. Because of rounding, figures may not add up to totals shown.
2. he figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.
3. Figures are rounded to nearest 5.

Caveats:
The figures do not equate to the number of individual nationals who were granted permits because they include those applications approved to extend or amend an existing permit or where the individual has moved to another job with a different employer. Not all those who were granted a permit took up the job and some may have been refused entry clearance or further leave to remain.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work permits were *(a)* applied for by and *(b)* granted to persons who were not European Economic Area or Swiss nationals for work in (i) health and medical services, (ii) social care services, (iii) hospitality

and catering, (iv) computer services, (v) telecommunications and (vi) financial services in each of the last 10 years. [263483]

Mr. Woolas: The following tables show the number of individual work permit applications applied for and approved for persons who were not EEA or Swiss nationals in each of the last 10 years broken down by specific industry sector. Data on social care services has not been provided as we do not collate information under this general sector, only under specific occupations.

Work permit applications applied for and granted between 1 January 1999 and 31 December 2008

	1999		2000		2001		2002		2003	
Industry sector	*Total applied for*	*Granted*	*Total applied for*	*Granted*	*Total applied for*	*Granted*	*Total applied for*	*Granted*	*Total applied for*	*Granted*
Computer Services	2,130	1,965	17,510	16,640	23,775	22,680	22,115	19,430	19,185	16,810
Financial Services	1,345	1,290	7,890	7,586	8,575	8,195	6,645	6,305	5,960	5,530
Health and Medical Services	3,660	3,430	20,510	19,405	31,995	29,695	42,980	37,270	48,355	42,645
Hospitality: Sectors Based Scheme	0	0	0	0	0	0	*	0	945	715
Hospitality and Catering	285	210	1,515	1,050	6,325	4,065	13,420	9,800	22,035	14,470
Telecommunications	415	380	2,585	2,455	2,305	2,195	2,645	2,470	1,940	1,770

	2004		2005		2006		2007		2008	
Industry sector	*Total applied for*	*Granted*	*Total applied for*	*Granted*	*Total applied for*	*Granted*	*Total applied for*	*Granted*	*Total applied for*	*Granted*
Computer Services	23,040	21,070	23,045	21,355	29,050	27,695	33,250	31,130	31,270	29,435
Financial Services	7,515	6,970	8,210	7,615	10,615	10,005	12,045	11,290	10,520	9,880
Health and Medical Services	52,625	46,845	40,390	38,950	36,835	31,085	25,090	18,020	22,310	18,800
Hospitality: Sectors Based Scheme	7,165	4,585	1,795	1,215	755	430	395	145	235	85
Hospitality and Catering	28,990	17,310	19,030	10,606	17,765	10,960	17,895	8,600	15,670	7,710
Telecommunications	1,820	1,595	1,585	1,305	2,790	2,600	4,495	4,190	3,285	3,090

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to nearest 5.
2. "*" Indicates 1 or 2.
3. The industry sectors are not based on the ONS Standard Industrial Classification (SIC)
4. The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Caveats:
The figures do not equate to the number of individual nationals who were granted permits because they include those applications approved to extend or amend an existing permit or where the individual has moved to another job with a different employer. Not all those who were granted a permit took up the job and some may have been refused entry clearance or further leave to remain.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work permits were *(a)* applied for by and *(b)* granted to persons who were not EEA or Swiss nationals for (i) sporting activities, (ii) entertainment and leisure services, (iii) training and work experience schemes and (iv) education and cultural activities in each of the last 10 years. [263484]

Mr. Woolas: The following table shows the number of individual work permit applications applied for and granted for persons who were not EEA or Swiss nationals in each of the last 10 years broken down by specific industry sector.

Work permit applications applied for and granted between 1 January 1999 and 31 December 2008

	1999		2000		2001		2002		2003	
Industry sector	*Total applied for*	*Granted*	*Total applied for*	*Granted*	*Total applied for*	*Granted*	*Total applied for*	*Granted*	*Total applied for*	*Granted*
Education and cultural activities	900	820	5,220	4,825	10,425	9,780	13,280	12,220	12,475	11,075
Entertainment and leisure services	985	910	4,570	4,275	4,925	4,560	5,150	4,610	5,255	4,650
Sporting activities	225	180	1,295	1,085	1,540	1,380	2,080	1,665	1,925	1,605
Training and work experience	1,565	1,260	6,810	5,650	5,565	4,715	5,270	4,185	5,225	3,925

Industry sector	2004 Total applied for	2004 Granted	2005 Total applied for	2005 Granted	2006 Total applied for	2006 Granted	2007 Total applied for	2007 Granted	2008 Total applied for	2008 Granted
Education and cultural activities	11,645	10,485	11,065	9,975	11,965	10,745	12,100	10,540	10,695	9,500
Entertainment and leisure services	5,565	4,840	5,610	4,845	5,765	4,980	6,080	5,185	6,255	5,450
Sporting activities	2,225	1,980	2,305	2,115	2,365	2,195	2,895	2,605	3,295	3,060
Training and work experience	4,975	3,885	5,075	3,995	5,555	4,655	5,560	4,530	5,010	4,115

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to nearest five.
2. The industry sectors are not based on the ONS Standard Industrial Classification (SIC).
3. The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Caveats:
The figures do not equate to the number of individual nationals who were granted permits because they include those applications approved to extend or amend an existing permit or where the individual has moved to another job with a different employer. Not all those who were granted a permit took up the job and some may have been refused entry clearance or further leave to remain.

Work Permits: Overseas Students

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether post-study work arrangements for international students will remain unchanged for the next academic year. [264035]

Mr. Woolas: From 31 March the UK Border Agency will no longer award points under the Tier 1 Post-Study route for Postgraduate Diplomas or Postgraduate Certificates other than Postgraduate Certificates of Education. These changes were laid before Parliament on 9 March 2009 in Statement of Changes in Immigration Rules HC 314.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Departmental Higher Civil Servants

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many senior civil servants his Department employs, broken down by pay band. [257589]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department of Energy and Climate Change has been formed by bringing together work previously covered by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. The final details of staff transferring from these departments are yet to be confirmed.

However, the current indicative numbers for Senior Civil Servants (SCS) are as follows (expressed as Full-Time Equivalents or FTE):

	Number
SCS Pay Band 1	53.8
SCS Pay Band 2	14.1
SCS Pay Band 3	4.0
Permanent Secretary	1.0

Electricity Generation

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much electricity was distributed through the national grid in each of the last 10 years. [263020]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The specific data requested are not available. However, the following table shows the electricity supplied through the transmission and distribution systems of both Great Britain and Northern Ireland along with electricity produced by companies as part of their manufacturing or other commercial activities. The period covered is 1970 to 2007. Provisional 2008 data on this basis will be published on 26 March 2009.

	Electricity supplied (net) GWh (1)
1970	230,136
1971	237,116
1972	243,966
1973	261,756
1974	253,251
1975	252,284
1976	255,978
1977	262,007
1978	267,375
1979	278,738
1980	264,859
1981	258,743
1982	253,811
1983	257,024
1984	261,535
1985	274,427
1986	278,476
1987	279,708
1988	285,711
1989	291,751
1990	297,502
1991	300,654
1992	298,547
1993	301,868

	Electricity supplied (net) GWh (1)
1994	306,936
1995	317,627
1996	332,357
1997	331,629
1998	342,699
1999	347,671
2000	357,266
2001	364,182
2002	366,657
2003	376,528
2004	373,340r
2005	376,735r
2006	374,695
2007	373,299

Source:
Digest of UK Energy Statistics 2008, internet only long-term trends annex to Chapter 7.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much and what proportion of electricity imported through the international grid originated in each country of origin in the last 12 months. [263104]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Provisional data for 2008 show that the UK imported 12.14 TWh of electricity (99 per cent.) through the interconnector with France and 0.15 TWh (1 per cent.) of electricity through the interconnector with the Republic of Ireland. UK suppliers may have contracted with generators in other continental European countries for some of this imported electricity but details of these contracts are not held centrally.

Electricity: Exports

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much electricity the UK exported through the UK grid in each year for which figures are available. [263099]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Exports of electricity through the interconnectors to France and to the Republic of Ireland in the most recent available years are as follows:

	GWh
1996	37
1997	41
1998	131
1999	263
2000	134
2001	264
2002	768
2003	2,959
2004	2,294
2005	2,839
2006	2,765
2007	3,398
2008[1]	1,272

[1] Figures for 2008 are provisional.
Source:
Digest of UK Energy Statistics 2008, Table 5.2.

Energy Supply

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of properties which experienced a loss of power supply *(a)* in England and *(b)* in Leicester in the last (i) week, (ii) month and (iii) 12 months. [256679]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The latest audited data from Ofgem are for 2007-08. Each household or meter point experiencing a power cut is counted as one interruption.

It is not possible to split the data for the areas requested but for Great Britain there were 22,022,045 electricity supply interruptions. On average this will be 423,501 a week and 1,835,170 a month.

The distribution network operator for Leicester is Central Networks East, which serves 2,576,436 customers across the east midlands. For 2007-08 there were 2,153,411 electricity supply interruptions in its area. On average this will be 41,412 a week and 179,451 a month.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of properties which on average have experienced a loss of power supply *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in Winchester in each (i) week, (ii) month and (iii) year of the last five years. [257791]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* The latest audited data from Ofgem is for 2007-08. Each household or meter point experiencing a power cut is counted as one interruption.

Averaged over the last five years for Great Britain there were (i) 437,095 electricity supply interruptions each week, (ii) 1,894,079 electricity supply interruptions each month and (iii) 22,728,946 electricity supply interruptions each year.

The distribution network operator serving Winchester is Southern Electric Power Distribution, which serves 2,876,427 customers across central southern England. Averaged over the last five years for its area there were (i) 46,692 electricity supply interruptions each week, (ii) 202,330 electricity supply interruptions each month and (iii) 2,427,960 electricity supply interruptions each year.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the contribution made by renewable energy to UK energy security; and if he will make a statement. [263101]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Our assessment of the contribution made by renewable energy to UK energy security was most recently set out in our Renewable Energy Strategy consultation document, which was published in June 2008, and can be accessed at

www.berr.gov.uk/renewableconsultation

We are updating this analysis as part of the development of the Renewable Energy Strategy, which we will publish later in spring 2009.

EU Emissions Trading Scheme

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the Government's policy is on hypothecating the receipts from the auctioning of EU Emissions Trading Scheme permits for expenditure on low-carbon energy projects. [255948]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Government's spending priorities are not, in general, determined by the way in which the money is raised. Hypothecating revenues to particular spending programmes imparts inflexibility in spending decisions and can lead to a misallocation of resources, with reduced value for money for taxpayers.

However, the Government recognise the need for investment in low carbon energy and other technologies, and their policy framework is already driving significant activity in this sector, for example, through the renewables obligation and the Environmental Transformation Fund.

The revised EU emissions trading system (EU ETS) directive, to apply from 2013, does not contain any legally binding requirements on member states to hypothecate auction revenues. The UK Government support this approach.

In addition to the directive, EU member states have made a non-legally binding commitment to spend at least half of the revenues from auctioning to tackle climate change both in the EU and in developing countries. This will include reducing emissions, adapting to climate change, reducing deforestation and developing renewable technologies. The Government are content with this approach, which we believe will provide a strong signal of the EU's willingness to invest in a low carbon economy and offer support to the international community ahead of negotiations in Copenhagen at the end of this year.

Fuel Poverty

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent assessment he has made of the groups of vulnerable people that are most likely to be in fuel poverty; and what account is being taken of the needs of cancer patients in considering existing fuel poverty policies and objectives. [263387]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 13 March 2009]:* The Department monitors the number of vulnerable households that are in fuel poverty. For this purpose, vulnerable households include all households containing children, the elderly or somebody who is sick or disabled.

In 2006, of 15.2 million vulnerable households in England, 1.9 million (13 per cent.) were fuel poor. The following table gives a detailed breakdown for each vulnerable group and is based on the latest figures available for England, for 2006.

	Number of households (thousand)		
Household contains at least one person:	*Fuel poor*	*Total*	*Percentage of households fuel poor*
Child	392	6,310	6
Over 60	1,285	7,539	17
Disabled or long term sick	915	6,198	15

Note:
That the sum of the groups do not sum to the total, as some households are in more than one group.

As the majority of fuel-poor households also have the lowest incomes, the Government has taken the approach that the most cost-effective, fair and efficient method of identifying vulnerable householders most likely to be at risk of fuel poverty is through the receipt of benefits (primarily means tested).

The Government recognise that not all cancer patients will necessarily be fuel poor or entitled to receive assistance aimed at those most vulnerable to fuel poverty. However, where those cancer patients are in receipt of benefits—whether income or pension related—with children under 16 or on disability living allowance, this will qualify them for additional heating and energy efficiency help under the Warm Front Scheme, for example.

Any household can qualify for subsidised energy saving measures from their energy supplier under the carbon emissions reduction target.

Older people are targeted as they are particularly vulnerable to the effects of cold weather during the winter months and of course the winter fuel payment helps older people with cancer to pay their fuel bills. This year the payment is £250 to over 60s and £400 to over 80s.

Fuel Poverty: Statistics

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what data his Department collects on fuel poverty; how frequently such data are collected; and if he will make a statement. [263140]

Joan Ruddock: The Department publishes data on fuel poverty annually. The data used to calculate fuel poverty estimates for England come from the English House Condition Survey (EHCS), compiled by the Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG), and energy price information, published by DECC. The EHCS collects data on features of each dwelling, including fuel sources and efficiency measures, which enable energy required to achieve the adequate standard of warmth to be derived.

The EHCS also collects information on householders, such as their income. Combining required energy consumption with prices and incomes, each dwelling covered in the survey is classified as either fuel poor or not, and the results aggregated to produce data for the whole of England. The EHCS additionally contains a range of other data that allow DECC to split fuel poverty by various other measures, for example, age of householders, type of dwelling, etc.

National Grid

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which power stations of over 50 MW capacity are connected to the national grid in each *(a)* Government Office region, *(b)* local authority area and *(c)* constituency. [257602]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Details of UK power stations together with their capacity and region are published under section 5.11 of the Digest of United Kingdom energy statistics (DUKES) available at:

www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/energy/statistics/publications/dukes/page45537.html

A list of power stations of over 50 MW capacity, together with the Government office region, local authority area and constituency in which each are located, is annexed.

Natural Gas: Storage

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when the Government will publish a national policy statement for gas storage. [255164]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We are preparing a national policy statement on gas storage and gas supply infrastructure. There will be a suite of national policy statements covering the energy sector. The NPSs are important documents, and it is essential that they are fit for purpose and give the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) clear guidance on how to take decisions. The gas supply infrastructure NPS is one of the NPSs to be published in draft in the summer for public consultation and then designated in early 2010.

Nuclear Power Stations

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which existing nuclear power stations he expects to be generating electricity at the end of *(a)* 2015, *(b)* 2016, *(c)* 2017, *(d)* 2018 and *(e)* 2019. [257588]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: There are currently 10 nuclear power stations in operation across England, Scotland and Wales, providing around 16 per cent. of the electricity generated in the UK. In 10 years time, we expect three of these stations, with nearly 3.7 GW of capacity, still to be open.

Projected closure dates for the UK's nuclear power stations that are expected to be generating electricity between 2015-19 and beyond are as follows:

Station	*Owner*	*Projected closure date*
Hinkley Point B	EDF Energy	2016
Hunterston B	EDF Energy	2016
Dungeness	EDF Energy	2018
Heysham 2	EDF Energy	2023
Torness	EDF Energy	2023
Sizewell B	EDF Energy	2035

Nuclear Power Stations: Decommissioning

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many he expects to be decommissioned in each of the next 10 years. [259496]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Current operational nuclear power stations owned by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and British Energy will be at various stages of decommissioning within the next 10 years, although none will have been completely decommissioned.

The current scheduled closure dates of operational nuclear power stations, at which point they enter their decommissioning phase, are as follows:

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

	Year
Wylfa	2010
Oldbury	current extension to 2009

British Energy

	Year
Hartlepool	2014
Heysham 1	2014
HinkleyB	2016
HunterstonB	2016
Dungeness B	2018

The following Magnox stations have already entered their decommissioning phase (with dates of generation in brackets).

Berkeley (1962 to 1989)
Bradwell (1962 to 2002)
Calder Hall (1956 to 2003)
Chapelcross (1959 to 2004)
Dungeness A (1965 to 2006)
Hinkley Point A (1965 to 2000)
Hunterston A (1964 to 1989)
Sizewell A (1966 to 2006)
Trawsfynydd (1965 to 1991).

Nuclear Power: Decommissioning

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his most recent estimate of the cost of nuclear clean-up is. [263565]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The latest estimate of the lifetime cost of dealing with the nuclear legacy is set out in the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's 2007-08 annual report and accounts. The total discounted estimate is £44.1 billion (comprising £40.7 billion for its core mission at 19 legacy sites; and a further £3.4 billion for the construction and lifetime costs of a deep geological disposal facility). These are the total lifetime cost based on a plan that takes a hundred years or more to complete.

Nuclear Safety Advisory Committee

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the reasons are for the disbanding of the Nuclear Safety Advisory Committee. [264020]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Nuclear Safety Advisory Committee is one of several advisory committees that advise the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). It reached the end of its latest term of office in October 2008. The HSE Board decided to defer any decisions on reconstituting the committee pending the outcome of various reviews. This included taking account of the recommendations of Dr. Tim Stone's review of nuclear regulatory arrangements, which were published in January 2009.

One of Dr. Stone's recommendations accepted by the Government was to restructure the HSE's Nuclear Directorate through legislation. The future make-up of any advisory body needs to follow decisions on these arrangements.

Power Failures

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* planned and *(b)* unplanned power cuts there have been in (i) Stroud constituency, (ii) Gloucestershire and (iii) England in each of the last five years; what the average number of power cuts in each county in England was in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [248137]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Figures for power interruptions are collected for each distribution service area, not by constituency or county. Each household or meter point experiencing a power cut is counted as one interruption.

In the Central Networks West distribution area (which covers the counties of the West Midlands, Gloucestershire, Shropshire, Worcestershire, Herefordshire, Staffordshire and Warwickshire) there have been in the region of 13.9 million unplanned interruptions in the last five years.

In the same area during the same five year period there were in the region of 760,000 planned interruptions.

It is not possible to provide accurate figures for England only, as one distribution service area overlaps England and Wales. However, in England and Wales there were in the region of 96 million unplanned interruptions in the last five years and 4.9 million planned interruptions.

Power Failures: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* planned and *(b)* unplanned power cuts there have been in (i) Hemel Hempstead and (ii) Hertfordshire in each of the last five years. [249057]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Figures for power interruptions are collected for each distribution service area, not by town or county. Each household or meter point experiencing a power cut is counted as one interruption.

Hemel Hempstead and Hertfordshire are in EDF Energy Networks' EPN distribution service area. There have been in the region of 13 million unplanned interruptions and 580,000 planned interruptions in EDF Energy Networks' EPN area in the last five years.

Power Stations: Combined Heat and Power

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many combined heat and power stations there are in the UK. [263097]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: At the end of 2007, the latest date for which information is available, there were 1,438 combined heat and power stations in the UK.

Renewable Energy

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what percentage of renewable energy generated in the UK was generated in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* Wales and *(d)* Northern Ireland in the last 12 months. [263054]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The most recently available data are for 2007. Of the 19,668 GWh of electricity generated from renewable sources, 49 per cent. was generated in England, 42 per cent. in Scotland, 7 per cent. in Wales and 2 per cent. in Northern Ireland.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what amount of energy from each type of renewable source was generated *(a)* in North Wales, including offshore and *(b)* in each English region, in each year for which figures are available. [263102]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information on electricity generated in North Wales and for each region of England is not available. This is because at regional level such information would disclose data for individual generating companies.

Wind Power: Planning Permission

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will make it his policy to require a buffer zone of two kilometres between a wind turbine and the nearest inhabited dwelling for any new planning application; and if he will make a statement. [262143]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 14 May 2008, given to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald), *Official Report*, column 1637W.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

10 Downing Street

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 13 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 581-2W, on 10 Downing Street, if he will place in the Library a copy of the list of the retail prices for each item of merchandise. [258622]

Kevin Brennan: The merchandise products listed are unsubsidised and are available for staff to purchase on a not-for-profit basis. Current prices range from £0.40 for a card to £49.44 for the No. 10 door model.

Catz Club

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 17 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 835W, on Futurebuilders: Catz Club, on what date the decision was taken to write off the funding given to Catz Club. [249961]

Mr. Byrne: The decision to write off the funding given to Catz Club was recommended by the Futurebuilders England Ltd. Investment Committee on 5 February 2008 and confirmed by the Futurebuilders England Board on 19 March 2008.

Civil Servants

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many civil servants there were in each Government department on *(a)* 1 November 2008 and *(b)* the latest date for which information is available. [263146]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many civil servants there were in each government department on (a) 1 November 2008 and (b) the latest date for which information is available. (263146)

Estimates of employment for the home civil service are taken from the Civil Service element of the Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey (QPSES). Data for the survey is collected on a quarterly basis; the latest date for which information is available is September 2008 (Annex A).

Updated estimates of the number of civil servants in each government department will be published on 18 March 2009 and will be available on-line:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_labour/Table6AllDepts.xls

Annex A—Civil service employment by Department[1], Quarter 3 2008

	Headcount
Attorney General's departments	
Crown Prosecution Service	8,770
Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate	50
Attorney General's Office	40
Serious Fraud Office	320
Treasury Solicitor	810
Revenue and Customs Prosecution Office	350
Cabinet Office	
Cabinet Office excl agencies	1,250
Other Cabinet Office agencies	
Central Office of Information	770
National School of Government	250
Parliamentary Counsel Office	80
HM Treasury	
HM Treasury	1,200
Chancellor's other departments	
Debt Management Office	80
Government Actuary's Department	110
National Savings and Investments	150
Office of Government Commerce	250
OGC Buying Solutions	270
Office for National Statistics[2]	0
Royal Mint	810
UK Statistics Authority	
UK Statistics Authority[2, 3, 4]	3,830
Charity Commission	
Charity Commission	490
Communities and Local Government	
Department for Communities and Local Government	2,840
Fire Service College	240
Ordnance Survey	1,420
Planning Inspectorate	880
Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre	50

Annex A—Civil service employment by Department[1], Quarter 3 2008

	Headcount
Culture, Media and Sport	
Department for Culture Media and Sport	470
Royal Parks	100
Defence	
Ministry of Defence	69,430
Defence Support Group	3,280
Defence Science and Technology Laboratory	3,510
Meteorological Office	1,830
UK Hydrographic Office	1,020
Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills	
Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills	840
National Weights and Measures Laboratory	50
UK Intellectual Property Office	1,040
Department for Children, Schools and Families	
Department for Children, Schools and Families	3,230
Ofsted	
Ofsted	2,620
Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	
Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs	3,100
Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science	570
Central Science Laboratory	650
Government Decontamination Services	30
Marine Fisheries Agency	190
Ofwat	210
Rural Payments Agency	3,530
State Veterinary Service	1,660
Veterinary Laboratories Agency	1,250
Veterinary Medicines Directorate	140
Export Credits Guarantee Department	
Export Credit Guarantee Department	210
Foreign and Commonwealth Office	
Foreign and Commonwealth Office (excl agencies)	5,860
Wilton Park Executive Agency	80
Health	
Department of Health (excl agencies)	2,260
Food Standards Agency	790
Meat Hygiene Service	1,100
Medical and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency	900
National Healthcare Purchasing and Supplies	270
NHS Business Services Authority	240
HM Revenue and Customs	
HM Revenue and Customs	88,230
Valuation Office	4,100
Home Office	
Home Office (excl agencies)	2,530
Criminal Records Bureau	540
Identity and Passport Service[3]	4,580
UK Border Agency	18,660
Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism	260

Annex A—Civil service employment by Department[1], Quarter 3 2008

	Headcount
International Development	
Department for International Development	1,640
Justice	
Ministry of Justice (excl agencies)	3,450
HM Courts Service	21,530
Land Registry	8,020
National Archives	630
Public Guardianship Office	330
Tribunals Service	3,000
Scotland Office	100
Wales Office	60
Public Sector Prison Service	51,620
Northern Ireland Office	
Northern Ireland Office	130
Security and Intelligence Services	
Security and Intelligence Services	5,520
Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform	
Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform	3,610
Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service	830
Companies House	1,180
Insolvency Service	2,550
Office of Fair Trading	610
Office of Gas and Electricity Market	310
Postal Services Commission	60
Transport	
Department for Transport	2,080
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	6,790
Driving Standards Agency	2,740
Government Car and Despatch Agency	310
Highways Agency	3,530
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	1,150
Office of Rail Regulation	350
Vehicle Certification Agency	140
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	2,660
Work and Pensions	
DWP Corporate and Shared Services	11,500
Child Support Agency	10,570
Job Centre Plus	74,870
Pensions and Disability Carers Service	17,550
The Health and Safety Executive	3,840
The Rent Service	500
Scottish government	
Scottish government (excl agencies)	4,990
Scottish Housing Regulator	60
Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service	1,710
Courts Group	30
Fisheries Research Services	330
General Register Scotland	310
HM Inspectorate of Education	210
Historic Scotland	1,060
National Archive for Scotland	160
Office of Accountant in Bankruptcy	120
Registers of Scotland	1,430
Scottish Court Service	1,410
Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency	310

Annex A—Civil service employment by Department[1], Quarter 3 2008

	Headcount
Scottish Prison Service Headquarters	4,020
Scottish Public Pensions Agency	240
Social Work Inspection Agency	50
Student Awards Agency	150
Transport Scotland	290
Office for the Scottish Charity Regulator	50
Mental Health Tribunal Scotland	80
Welsh Assembly	
Welsh Assembly Government	6,070
ESTYN	100
Total employment	521,560

[1] Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10, and numbers less than five are represented by "..".
[2] The UK Statistics Authority (the Authority) was established on 1 April 2008, when the 'Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007' came into effect. One of the functions of the Authority is to oversee the Office for National Statistics (ONS)—its executive office.
[3] On 1 April 2008 employees of the General Register Office were transferred from the UK Statistics Authority to the Identity and Passport Service (IPS).
[4] As of 1 April 2008, Field Interviewers are now classified as civil servants and are included as UK Statistics Authority employees.
Notes:
1. The Disability and Carers Service and the Pension Service are now called the Pension, Disability and Carers Service.
2. Communities Scotland, Scottish Agricultural Science Agency and Scottish Building Standards Agency were abolished on 1 April 2008. Staff moved into the Scottish government.
3. Scottish Housing Regulator was setup on 1 April 2008.
Source:
Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey

Community Resilience Fund

Tony Baldry: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the procedures are for charities and other voluntary organisations operating in Oxfordshire to access the Community Resilience Fund. [262951]

Kevin Brennan: The Community Resilience Fund was announced in "Real Help for Communities: charities, volunteers and social enterprises", an action plan of targeted support to the sector.

The Community Resilience Fund will be targeted only in areas identified as at risk of increased deprivation as a result of the recession.

Officials in the Office of the Third Sector are working with other Government Departments and stakeholders to develop the programme and will be able to make further announcements in the coming weeks. Further information will be posted on our website in due course, please refer to:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/third_sector.aspx

Departmental Bank Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with which banks the Cabinet Office has or has had contracts for the provision of financial advice, for the financial year 2008-09. [262767]

Kevin Brennan: To date, the Cabinet Office has not let any contracts with banks for the provision of financial advice in the financial year 2008-09. Full details will not be available until the Cabinet Office accounts have been audited and laid before Parliament, expected to be shortly before the summer recess.

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what private sector support has been provided to his Department's Real Help Now website. [259457]

Mr. Byrne: The Real Help Now website brings together information about the range of support available during the economic downturn and makes it easier for people and businesses to access that support.

No private-sector support has been provided to the website. A private-sector contractor was engaged under standard Cabinet Office procurement arrangements to assist in the technical development of the website.

Employment: Disabled

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people registered as disabled have been employed in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* south Tyneside, *(c)* the north-east and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997. [263812]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 13 March 2009]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people registered as disabled have been unemployed in (a) Jarrow constituency, (b) South Tyneside, (c) the North East and (d) the UK in each year since 1997. (263812)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles estimates of unemployment from sources in which limiting health problems are recorded, rather than whether or not people are registered as disabled. Table 1 shows the estimated number of people who had a limiting health problem lasting more than 12 months and who were unemployed. Estimates are available for the 12 month period ending February 2001 onwards. They are derived from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS), following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Sample sizes for Jarrow and South Tyneside are too small to calculate reliable estimates.

Estimates for the United Kingdom as a whole are not available prior to the 12 month period ending February 2004. Estimates for Great Britain have therefore also been provided.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population, and some are for small geographical areas, they are all based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty. A guide to the quality of the estimates is given in Table 1.

Number of unemployed disabled persons[1] residents in Jarrow, South Tyneside, North East, Great Britain and United Kingdom, 2000-08

Thousand

12 months ending	North East	Great Britain	United Kingdom
February 2001	23	339	[2]...
February 2002	17	299	[2]...
February 2003	14	278	[2]...
February 2004	16	289	296
March 2005	13	252	260
March 2006	18	299	305
March 2007	17	305	311
March 2008	16	321	328

Number of unemployed disabled persons[1] residents in Jarrow, South Tyneside, North East, Great Britain and United Kingdom, 2000-08

Thousand

12 months ending	North East	Great Britain	United Kingdom
June 2008[3]	***10	*327	*333

[1] Persons age 16+ who have health problems lasting more than 12 months.
[2] Figures are disclosive or statistically unreliable.
[3] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality below.

Guide to Quality:
The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220

Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness
* 0 ≤ CV<5 Estimates are considered precise
** 5 ≤ CV <10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise
*** 10 ≤ CV <20 Estimates are considered acceptable
**** CV ≥ 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

Source:
Annual Population Survey and Annual Labour Force Survey

Population

Mr. Soames: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when the UK population is expected to reach *(a)* 61 million and *(b)* 71 million. [263739]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question asking when the UK population is expected to reach (a) 61 million and (b) 71 million. (263739)

The most recent national population projections, based on the population at the middle of 2006, were published by the Office for National Statistics on 23 October 2007. The main, or principal, projections are based on the best assumptions available at the time of future expected levels of migration, fertility and mortality.

The population of the UK was projected to have reached 61 million by the middle of 2008, and it is projected to reach 71 million in 2031.

Mr. Soames: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster with reference to the answer of 5 November 2008 to the right hon. Member for Birkenhead, *Official Report*, column 504W, on population, what the latest population projections for the UK for *(a)* 2031, *(b)* 2056 and *(c)* 2081 are. [263740]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question making reference to the answer of 5 November 2008 to the Right Hon. Member for Birkenhead (Official Report, column 504w, on population) and asking for the latest population projections for the UK for (a) 2031, (b) 2056 and (c) 2081.

The most recent national population projections, based on the population at the middle of 2006, were published by the Office for National Statistics on 23 October 2007. The main, or principal, projections are based on the best assumptions available at the time of future expected levels of migration, fertility and mortality.

The table below gives the projected UK population under the principal projections for the three years requested.

Total projected population of the UK 2006-based principal population projections

	Million
2031	71.1
2056	78.6
2081	85.3

The next set of national population projections will be based at the middle of 2008 and are due for publication by the Office for National Statistics in autumn 2009.

Social Enterprises

Tony Baldry: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the Cabinet Office's definition of a social *(a)* enterprise and *(b)* entrepreneur is. [262958]

Kevin Brennan: A social enterprise is defined as

"A business with primarily social objectives whose surpluses are principally reinvested for that purpose in the business or in the community, rather than being driven by the need to maximise profit for shareholders and owners."

This definition was developed and agreed with the sector. It was published in the Government's first Social Enterprise Strategy (Social Enterprise: A Strategy for Success (2002) and reiterated in the Social Enterprise Action Plan: Scaling New Heights (November 2006). Both are available in the House of Commons Library.

The School for Social Entrepreneurs defines a social entrepreneur as

"someone who works in an entrepreneurial manner, but for public or social benefit, rather than to make money."

Tony Baldry: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what arrangements the Cabinet Office has put in place for people in Oxfordshire to access the School for Social Entrepreneurs. [262959]

Kevin Brennan: In "Real Help for Communities", the Office of the Third Sector announced a £0.5 million investment in the School for Social Entrepreneurs (SSE) in 2009-10 to enable them to increase their capacity and double the number of social entrepreneurs that it supports.

This will enable SSE to open new schools in two English regions where they currently have no working presence, one of which is the south-east. The new south-east school will open its inaugural programme later this year and will provide social entrepreneurs from across the region, including Oxfordshire, with support to enable them to successfully establish or grow community enterprises.

Social entrepreneurs from Oxfordshire will be able to apply to the new school in the south-east as well as to schools in other regions. There are no paper qualifications necessary for entry to SSE programmes as places are offered on the basis of an individual's entrepreneurial qualities and their engagement with the community they are aiming to serve.

V

Tony Baldry: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster in what ways the charity v promotes new volunteering opportunities for young people in Oxfordshire; and what arrangements are in place for young people in Oxfordshire to access such volunteering opportunities. [262933]

Kevin Brennan: v promotes new volunteering opportunities for young people and has invested over £1.5 million to support local Oxfordshire based projects in particular to create appealing local volunteering opportunities.

v has put in place a network of vinvolved teams across England to create new volunteering opportunities and support young people to find volunteering placements that match their passions and interests. In Oxfordshire the vinvolved team is hosted by the Oxfordshire Children and Voluntary Youth Service and expects to create around 7,000 new opportunities by 2011.

v's full-time volunteering programme, vtalent year offers 44 week long volunteering placements in Children's and Young People's Services of local authorities. In Oxfordshire the scheme is being piloted by Oxfordshire county council and will provide around 30 placements over two years starting in March this year.

Through v's youth fund vcashpoint, in partnership with HSBC, young people in Oxfordshire and elsewhere can apply directly for funds of up to £2,500 to set up their own community project.

Voluntary Organisations: Finance

Tony Baldry: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what arrangements the Cabinet Office has made for charities and other voluntary organisations in Oxfordshire to access the Futurebuilders Fund in order to enhance their capacity. [262954]

Kevin Brennan: Futurebuilders is a fund open to third sector organisations in all areas of England looking to build their capacity in order to bid for and win public service delivery contracts. A third-sector organisation can access the fund provided it meets the criteria of the Futurebuilders Programme.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what arrangements the Cabinet Office has put in place for charities and other voluntary organisations in Oxfordshire to access grants and endowments through its grants programme. [262955]

Kevin Brennan: The Cabinet Office delivers grassroots grants through the Community Development Foundation (CDF).

CDF has appointed a local grant administrator in each top tier local authority area in the country to award grants and raise endowments. In Oxfordshire the local funder is Oxfordshire Community Foundation.

Through Oxfordshire Community Foundation, up to £1.5 million will be invested in Oxfordshire over the course of the three year programme. This includes the £622,500 available through the endowment element, whereby Government will match up to this value on donations raised by local private individuals and businesses.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Accountancy: Cartels

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what statutory powers he has to investigate cartels operated by accounting firms. [263051]

Mr. Thomas: Anti-competitive conduct such as cartel activity is prohibited by both UK and European competition law. The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) is the UK's competition regulator responsible for promoting effective competition and enforcing competition law. Anyone with concerns about possible cartel activity in any sector of the economy should submit the details to the OFT who have the relevant powers to take action as appropriate.

Competition: Tribunals

Dr. Cable: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the confidential dossier drawn up by his Department making the case for waiving competition law submitted in evidence to the Competition Appeal Tribunal in the December 2008 hearing of the case of Merger Action Group v. Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform still exists in *(a)* electronic and *(b)* paper form. [261364]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 6 March 2009]:* The information relevant to my noble Friend, the Secretary of State's decision of 31 October on the proposed merger between HBOS and Lloyds TSB still exists in both paper and electronic form. The great majority of that information has been published in accordance with the requirements of the Enterprise Act 2002. However, some information has not been published. This is in accordance with the provisions contained in Part 9 of the Enterprise Act which reflects the need to exclude from disclosure (so far as practicable):

> any information whose disclosure the authority thinks is contrary to the public interest;
>
> commercial information whose disclosure the authority thinks might significantly harm the legitimate business interests of the undertaking to which it relates;
>
> information relating to the private affairs of an individual whose disclosure the authority thinks might significantly harm the individual's interests.

Consumers: Safety

Harry Cohen: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many consumer products were withdrawn from sale for health and safety reasons in 2008. [261198]

Mr. Thomas: These figures are not collected by central Government. However during 2008 127 consumer products were notified by the UK under RAPEX, (the EU rapid alert system for all dangerous consumer products, with the exception of food, pharmaceutical and medical devices), which is operated under the Directive on General Product Safety (2001/95/EC).

Financial Services: Electoral Register

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will commission research into the impact on the credit services and debt collection industry of the combined effect of the proposed abolition of the edited electoral roll and the implementation of the Consumer Credit Act 2006. [261632]

Mr. Thomas: In line with the commitments made during the passage of the Consumer Credit Act 2006, the Government will review the Act after it has been in force for three years.

The Government are committed to holding a public consultation to establish how removing the provisions that govern the edited register would impact not just on individuals but the economy as a whole. This will enable the Government to build a firmer evidence base about the advantages and disadvantages of the edited register and consider the way forward on the basis of the responses to the consultation. The Ministry of Justice is responsible for the edited register and its Ministers will make a decision in due course on when the public consultation should take place.

Home Information Packs

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 230W, on home information packs, what information the Office of Fair Trading holds on the number of penalty charge notices issued for breach of home information pack duties. [257759]

Mr. Thomas: The enforcing authorities in respect of the HIPS provisions are local weights and measures authorities, typically trading standards services. The OFT is not an enforcer and has no powers under the Act. The OFT cannot direct local authorities as to the priority they give or level of enforcement activity they take in relation to compliance with the HIP provisions. However, the Act requires that where a penalty charge notice (PCN) is issued the local authority informs the OFT. This is because the OFT has a duty, as the national regulator for estate agents, to consider the fitness of a person to be allowed to work as an estate agent and to take appropriate action, including warning or banning an agent, where their conduct falls short of legal requirements. The OFT would consider the receipt of a PCN as part of that process and a "trigger" to consider fitness under the Estate Agents Act 1979.

Retail Trade: Government Assistance

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to assist owners of small retail outlets. [261141]

Mr. McFadden: Small retailers are in the same position as any other small business in terms of access to the generic support on offer to small businesses. A package of support to small businesses worth £1 billion in tax cuts and £2 billion of loan guarantees was announced in the pre-Budget report 2008. Building on this, a number of measures to provide real help for business were launched in January 2009, including schemes to improve access to finance, help with cashflow and provide additional support for training.

We have improved small businesses' experiences of Government through Business Link and by establishing businesslink.gov.uk—a "one-stop shop" of online advice on how to start and grow a business. This has made it easier for businesses to access information on regulation, best practice, and financial support.

We are providing more help for small businesses to weather current conditions through advice and support services. For example, Business Link—with over 910,000 customers already—has to date (5 March 2009) carried out nearly 32,000 free "health checks" for businesses since October 2008, offering hands on advice to help identify problems early and survive in the current financial climate. Some 13 per cent. of these businesses were in the wholesale and retail sector.

Street Trading: Penalty Notices

Mr. Bruce: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he plans to give local authorities the power to issue fixed penalty notices for illegal street traders. [258452]

Mr. Thomas: The Department intends to consult shortly on possible amendments to the current street trading regime. This consultation demonstrates the Government's commitment to presenting options for change following the publication on 10 February of research into street trading and pedlary commissioned from Durham university.

We are also considering whether local authorities should be given access to new powers available under Part 3 of the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008, which could allow them to impose civil sanctions (including fixed monetary penalties) for certain offences committed under street trading legislation.

Trade: Channel Islands

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had on trade between the UK and the Channel Islands. [261140]

Mr. Thomas: I have had no recent discussions regarding trade between the UK and the Channel Islands.

JUSTICE

Departmental Legislation

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend, East of 9 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 785W, on departmental legislation, if he will update the information placed in the Library to include new offences created in 2008. [262510]

Maria Eagle: The information that the hon. Member requests goes across a number of Departments and both primary and secondary legislation. There are no immediate plans to update the information to include new offences created in 2008.

Departmental Translation Services

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Birkenhead of 25 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 839W, on departmental translation services, what the cost for language translators and interpreters is for *(a)* his Department and its predecessor and *(b)* its agencies in each of the last five years. [262502]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice cannot provide the total cost for language translators and interpreters for each of the last five years, as this information is not centrally collated and can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

However, figures are available for the 2007-08 financial year for some parts of the business:

	Translators	£ *Interpreters*
MOJ HQ	272,877	[1]4,034,000
HMCS	200,000	—
OCJR	448	0
NOMS	8,906	32,000

[1] This figure is the total cost for interpreters' services in Her Majesty's Crown court in 2007-08. This is paid from the central funds budget.

There are no central records on expenditure in magistrates courts. This can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Tribunals are unable to differentiate between the cost of translators and interpreters. The total cost of those services in 2007-08 was £6,058,000. This figure includes services for people with visual and hearing impairments and travel expenses.

Information for Her Majesty's Prison Service and the Probation Service is not held centrally and is available only at a disproportionate cost. I have asked for immediate work to be undertaken to improve the data that should be available to my Ministry and to Parliament, in this subject area.

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much expenditure was incurred in respect of overseas visits that *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers in his Department and *(c)* his Department's senior officials undertook in 2008. [262176]

Mr. Straw: Since 1999, the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the financial year 2007-08 was published on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 102WS and for the first time, included details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All travel by Ministers is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

In respect of senior officials (taken to mean members of the senior civil service), details of foreign travel is not collated centrally as separate reporting of these details is not a requirement, and as such details could be gathered only at a disproportionate cost.

All travel undertaken by all Ministry of Justice staff members, both SCS and non-SCS, is undertaken in line with the published rules for official travel within the staff handbook. The rules are in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Civil Service Management Code.

Included in the following table are details of the official visits undertaken in 2008 by Ministers at the Ministry of Justice, as well as details of the officials accompanying Ministers during these visits:

Minister	Date (2008)	Destination and purpose of visit	Number of accompanying officials	Total cost of travel and accommodation (£)
The right hon. Jack Straw MP	12 to 16 February	Visit to the United States of America (Washington/ Virginia/New York) for a range of bi-lateral and public engagements	4 x officials 1 x spouse	22,819.70
	5 to 6 June	Visit to Luxemburg for Justice and Home Affairs Council	3 x officials	4,474.48
	10 to 17 September	Visit to Vietnam and India for a range of bilateral and public engagements	4 x officials 1 x spouse	25,858.59
	24 October	Visit with Lord Bach to Luxemburg for Justice and Home Affairs Council	3 x officials	1,599.75
The right hon. David Hanson MP	14 January	Visit to prison ships, Rotterdam, Holland	3 x officials	1,138.30
	22 to 24 April	Visit to large prison complex, Abuja, Nigeria	1 x official	4,551.00
	4 to 5 November	Visit to Launch Bulgarian NOMS Twinning Project and Bulgarian prison/ probation area, Sofia, Bulgaria	1 x official	1,390.10
The right hon. Michael Wills MP	9 to 10 April	Visit to Geneva for the UN Examinations on Human Rights	4 x officials	2,143.73
Lord Bach	27 November	Justice and Home Affairs Council in Brussels	1 x official	409.32
Maria Eagle MP	Maria Eagle MP did not undertake any foreign travel in a ministerial capacity during the period in question.			
Shahid Malik MP	Shahid Malik MP has not undertaken any foreign travel in a ministerial capacity since accepting the ministerial position at the MoJ in October 2008.			
Lord Hunt	Lord Hunt did not undertake any foreign travel in a ministerial capacity during 2008, prior to leaving in October.			
Bridget Prentice MP	4 February	Visit to Berlin to meet with the German Justice Minister	1 x official	777.00
	4 to 9 May	Visit to India to liberalise further legal services	1 x official	10,083.00
	7 to 8 July	Visit to Nice for Justice and Home Affairs Council	1 x official	1,953.40
	24-25 July	Visit to Brussels for Justice and Home Affairs Council	1 x official	1,028.56

Fraud: Credit

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted of credit fraud in each of the last five years. [263179]

Maria Eagle: There is no specific offence of 'credit fraud', but persons involved in fraudulent activity may have been prosecuted under various sections of the 1968 and 1978 Theft Acts and the 2006 Fraud Act. Data covering offences under the relevant sections of these acts for the number of persons proceeded against at magistrates' courts and found guilty at all courts in England and Wales 2003 to 2007 are shown in the following table. The Criminal Statistics data for 2008 are due to be published in November 2009.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for selected offences relating to fraud, England and Wales, 2003 to 2007[1, 2, 3]

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Proceeded against	13,733	11,882	10,182	8,171	8,515
Found guilty	10,018	9,072	8,001	6,484	6,539

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Includes the following statutes and corresponding offence description:
Theft Act 1968 sec 15.
Obtaining property by deception.
Theft Act 1968 sec 15A as added by Theft (Amendment) Act 1996 s.1.
Obtaining a money transfer by deception.
Theft Act 1968 sec 16 (1)(2)(b) and (c).
Obtaining pecuniary advantage by deception (except railway frauds).
Theft Act 1978 secs 1 and 2.
Railway Frauds.
Theft Act 1978 sec 1.
Obtaining services by deception (except railway frauds).
Theft Act 1978 sec 2.
Evasion of liability by deception (except railway frauds).
Fraud Act 2006 s.1(2a)(3)(4), 2(1a)(b)
Dishonestly makes a false representation to make a gain for himself or another or to cause loss to another or to expose another to a risk.
Fraud Act 2006 s.1(2a)(3)(4), 3(1a)(b)
Dishonestly fails to disclose information to make a gain for himself or another or to cause loss to another or to expose another to a risk.
Fraud Act 2006 s.6
Possession etc. of articles for use in frauds
Fraud Act 2006 s.7
Make, adapt, supply or offer to supply any article knowing that it is designed or adapted for use in the course of or in connection with fraud, or intending it to be used to commit or facilitate fraud
Fraud Act 2006 s. 11
By any dishonest act obtains services for which payment is required, with intent to avoid payment this includes 'Attaching a decoder to her television to enable viewing access to cable-satellite television channels for which she has no intention of paying'
Source:
Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

House of Lords: Reform

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the Government plans to provide for the representation of *(a)* the Church of England and *(b)* other faith organisations within the House of Lords when it is reformed. [262920]

Mr. Straw: In the 2008 White Paper on Lords reform, the Government confirmed that in a wholly elected second chamber there would be no reserved seats for Church of England Bishops or for any other group. However, the position of the Church of England is that of the Church by law established, with the Sovereign as its Supreme Governor. The presence of Bishops in the House of Lords reflects the relationship between Crown, Parliament and the Church. The Government propose, therefore, that if there is to be an appointed element in a reformed second chamber, then there should be a number of seats reserved for Church of England Bishops.

The White Paper also proposed that the Appointments Commission should encourage applications from church and faith leaders as it likely that many would be strong candidates for appointment. The Government sought views on whether the Commission should be given a specific remit to provide for representation of faith groups, in its appointment processes.

Offenders

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have entered the criminal justice system for the first time in each of the last 10 years. [263177]

Mr. Hanson: Figures for the number of offenders receiving, for the first time, a caution or conviction in each year from 2000 and 2007, are shown in the table. These figures cover offenders of all ages who were recorded by police forces in England and Wales on the Police National Computer (PNC).

Number of persons cautioned[1] or convicted with no previously recorded cautions or convictions, as recorded by the police on the Police National Computer[2], 2000-07, England and Wales

	Number of persons
2000	272,000
2001	272,000
2002	270,000
2003	282,000
2004	289,000
2005	316,000
2006	329,000
2007	327,000

[1] Including reprimands and final warnings for juveniles.
[2] Excludes some summary offences and also some offences prosecuted by authorities other than the police.

The performance of the criminal justice system has improved significantly in recent years. The number of offences brought to justice has increased by 42 per cent. since 2001-02, from just over 1 million offences brought to justice in 2001-02 to 1.43 million in the year to June 2008.

These figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. Figures are presented from 2000 onwards; the PNC data held by the Ministry of Justice from before 2000 is not considered sufficiently complete for use in the answer.

PA Consulting Group

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been paid to the PA Consulting Group for advice on prison reform in each year since the PA Consulting Group was first commissioned. [260041]

Mr. Malik: The information requested is not readily available due to the fact there is no centralised contracting team in the Ministry of Justice. To obtain it would therefore incur disproportionate cost.

Parenting Orders

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many parenting orders have been issued in each of the last three years; and what the cost was of the provision of relevant parenting classes and other supportive activities during each year. [263173]

Mr. Hanson: In 2007-08, 1,649 parenting orders were recorded by youth offending teams. These were mostly for parents of a child aged 10 to 17 years who was convicted of an offence. The number of parenting orders recorded has increased slightly from the previous year, when there were 1,507. In 2005-06 a total of 1,505 parenting orders were recorded.

More detail on parenting orders issued, including a breakdown of the different types, is available from the Youth Justice Annual Workload Data 2007-08, published by the Youth Justice Board (p29).

The amount spent on these parenting interventions and other supportive activities is dependent on local priority, and data are not collected centrally.

Prison Sentences

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people *(a)* under the age of 17 and *(b)* aged 17 to 21 years have received a custodial sentence in each of the last five years. [263172]

Mr. Hanson: The requested information is shown in the following table.

The proportion of under-18s sentenced to custody—in comparison with all under-18 disposals (court and pre-court)—has fallen in recent years from 4 per cent. to 3 per cent. That reflects a greater use of out-of-court disposals (according to the 2005-06 Youth Justice Board annual statistics).

Number of offenders aged under 17 and 17 to 21 given custodial sentences 2003-07

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Immediate custody					
Aged under 17	3,438	3,472	3,347	3,477	3,220
Aged 17 to 21	24,017	22,925	21,684	21,101	21,381
Total	27,455	26,397	25,031	24,578	24,601
Suspended sentence					
Aged under 17	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Aged 17 to 21	103	93	1,036	5,925	7,198
Total	103	93	1,036	5,925	7,198

n/a = not applicable

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Prisoners: Racial Harassment

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1216W, on prisoners: racial harassment, what steps he has taken to reduce the number of the incidents of alleged racism; and how many such incidents took place in each year from 1995 to 2007. [262944]

Mr. Malik: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is committed to eradicating all forms of racism. The recently published 'Race Review 2008', which is available in the library of the House, sets out the current assessment of race equality in the Prison Service and recognises that there has been considerable success in moving towards the elimination of more blatant forms of racism.

Among the ways in which this has been achieved is by making racist incident report forms (RIRFs) more accessible, we have also introduced a level of confidentiality, and improved confidence through increased external scrutiny of the reporting process locally.

This has resulted in an increase in the number of reported incidents. While all reported incidents are taken seriously, few consist of serious allegations of misconduct by staff, and all such matters are subject to disciplinary investigation under the code of conduct and discipline.

The following table presents the number of incidents of alleged racism reported by prisoners from 2004-05 to the present—prior to this there was no central record. The table distinguishes between reports about the behaviour of other prisoners and those concerning service provision or the actions of members of staff.

	Total	*Prisoner behaviour*	*Service/ actions of staff*
2004-05	5,641	2,268	3,373
2005-06	6,912	2,719	4,193
2006-07	7,569	2,993	4,576
2007-08	8,051	2,758	5,293
2008-09[1]	6,862	2,186	4,676

[1] Figures for 1 April to 31 December 2008

Prisoners: Self-harm

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many incidents of self-harm by prisoners have *(a)* been reported and *(b)* required hospital treatment in each of the last three years; [262400]

(2) how many incidents of self-harm in each young offender institution by *(a)* juvenile prisoners and *(b)* young adult prisoners have (i) been reported and (ii) required hospital treatment in each of the last three years. [262401]

Mr. Straw: The number of reported self-harm incidents and the numbers which involved a hospital visit[1] are detailed in the following table:

[1] Attendance at an external health care facility is, in part, dependent on the level of health care facilities available within the prison and attendance at hospital should not be used as an indicator of the severity of self harm incidents.

	Self-harm incidents	*Number of hospital visits*	*Hospital visits as a percentage of incidents*
2006	23,395	1,304	6
2007	22,875	1,373	6
2008	24,884	1,308	5

The number of reported self-harm incidents in YOIs[2] and resulting hospital visits, involving juveniles and young adults, are detailed in the following table.

[2] These figures refer to incidents of deliberate self-harm in single-function young offender or juvenile institutions only. They exclude any data from dual-function establishments with official young offender roles.

	Young people incidents (15-18 yrs)	*Juvenile hospital visits*	*Hospital visits as a percentage of incidents*	*Young adult incidents (18-20 yrs)*	*Young adult hospital visits*	*Hospital visits as a percentage of incidents*
2006	631	17	3	1,263	61	5
2007	438	11	3	1,208	79	7
2008	631	13	2	1,142	65	6

Witnesses: Human Rights

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the implications for rules relating to evidence and witnesses of the judgement of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of Al-Khawaja and Tahery v the United Kingdom; and if he will make a statement. [263147]

Mr. Straw: We are considering the implications of this judgment and whether or not to request a referral to the Grand Chamber.

Young Offenders: Merseyside

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1219W, what the average time from arrest to sentence for persistent young offenders in Merseyside was in the latest period for which information is available. [262945]

Mr. Hanson: Overall statistics on persistent young offenders (PYOs) for England and Wales and the Merseyside police force area are available from 1997 to 2007.

These figures are designed to measure the speed and efficiency of the youth justice system, through monitoring the pledge to halve the average time from arrest to sentence for dealing with PYOs in England and Wales from 142 days in 1996 to 71 days. They are not designed to measure overall trends in youth crime, and will give a misleading picture of the true trend if used for this purpose.

On 10 December 2008, the Secretary of State for Justice announced in a written ministerial statement that the PYO pledge would be dropped with effect from the end of 2008. This is therefore the last year for which PYO statistics will be published and compiled.

The following table shows the average time from arrest to sentence for persistent young offenders in England and Wales and Merseyside in each year from 1997.

Average time from arrest to sentence for persistent young offenders

	England and Wales		*Merseyside police force area*	
	Number of cases heard	*Average interval (days)*	*Number of cases heard*	*Average interval (days)*
1997	16,010	141	695	153
1998	18,605	125	726	138
1999	21,151	108	773	116
2000	23,131	95	820	111
2001	25,393	76	966	91
2002	26,116	68	999	65
2003	26,086	66	1,016	81
2004	26,363	69	1,046	82
2005	27,037	68	835	75
2006	28,252	72	797	65
2007	30,683	65	955	63
2008	28,834	57	624	53

The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) publishes the data in the table as National Statistics. Further information on persistent young offenders can be found on the dedicated page of the MOJ website:

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/averagetimearresttosentencepyo.htm

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1193W, on young offenders, how many young offenders have been placed on the

intensive supervision and surveillance programme (ISSP) in Merseyside since 2001; and what assessment his Department has made of the comparative *(a)* costs and *(b)* re-offending rates arising from (i) ISSP sentences and (ii) custodial sentences. [262946]

Mr. Hanson: A total of 1,294 young offenders have been placed on the Intensive Supervision and Surveillance programme (ISSP) since the programme commenced in Merseyside in July 2001. A detailed breakdown by year and youth offending team in the Merseyside area is provided in the tables.

The cost of ISSP varies from region to region but the Youth Justice Board use an average cost of £8,250 per head. The average annual cost per custodial place at 1 April 2008 is:

	Average annual cost per custodial place (£)
Secure Children's Homes	210,610.46
Secure Training Centres	156,167.59
Young Offender Institutions	57,015.44

The Ministry of Justice publishes reoffending data based on disposal and this is available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffending juveniles.htm

ISSP can be attached to a number of community sentences, to the supervision part of a detention and training order, on release from custody imposed for a serious offence or attached as a bail requirement. It is not possible to identify ISSP separately from centrally available data.

	Bail	*CRO*[1]	*SO*[2]	*SO/CRO ff bail ISSP*[3]	*DTO*[4]	*Sec 90-92*[5]	*Total*
July 2001 to March 2003							
St. Helens, Knowsley, Sefton	15	0	29	0	9	0	53
Liverpool	15	0	39	0	6	0	60
Wirral	32	2	26	0	1	0	61
	62	2	94	0	16	0	174
2003-04							
St. Helens, Knowsley, Sefton	32	0	32	0	8	—	72
Liverpool	51	0	61	0	5	—	117
Wirral	25	0	27	0	4	—	56
	108	0	120	0	17	—	245
2004-05							
Knowsley, St. Helens and Sefton	25	0	23	0	8	0	56
Liverpool	20	1	60	1	24	0	106
Wirral	24	0	28	0	10	0	62
	69	1	111	1	42	0	224
2005-06							
Knowsley, St. Helens and Sefton	35	0	17	0	8	0	60
Liverpool	26	0	42	5	40	2	115
Wirral	11	0	21	0	9	0	41
	72	0	80	5	57	2	216
2006-07							
Knowsley, St. Helens and Sefton	53	0	32	4	19	0	108
Liverpool	25	0	27	4	20	4	80
Wirral	30	0	18	0	9	0	57
	108	0	77	8	48	4	245
2007-08							
Knowsley	13	0	11	2	7	0	33
Liverpool	21	1	35	2	22	1	82
Sefton	6	0	8	0	0	0	14
St. Helens	9	0	3	1	6	0	19
Wirral	17	0	16	2	7	0	42
	66	1	73	7	42	1	190
Total ISSP in Merseyside since 2001	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,294

[1] Community Rehabilitation Order
[2] Supervision Order
[3] SO/CRO ISSP given after young offender has completed bail ISSP
[4] Detention and Training Order (ISSP applied after release from custody)
[5] Custodial sentence for most serious offences (ISSP applied after release from custody)

Young Offenders: Rehabilitation

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects the Youth Rehabilitation Order to be implemented. [263175]

Mr. Hanson: The YRO will be introduced towards the end of 2009. It is designed to combine existing sentences into one generic sentence and will be the standard community sentence used for the majority of young offenders, replacing nine existing community sentences. It will offer practitioners and sentencers greater clarity and flexibility in the community sentencing framework and provide a more risk based approach to community sentencing for young offenders.

The YRO will have attached to it a number of requirements and this will consist of a menu of interventions including programmes, reparation, treatment for drug misuse, supervision and curfew which the court can choose from to suit the individual offender taking into account the seriousness of the offence.

Youth Custody

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many 18 to 21-year-olds on remand have been placed in prison cells with adults in the last 12 months. [261661]

Mr. Hanson: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 10 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 249W. Establishments operate a policy that young adult remands (18 to 21-year-olds) do not cell share with adult remands. Remanded young adults are either placed into dedicated young offender institutes or into local 'adult' prisons. Where accommodation is within the main adult estate, young adults do not share with adults.

Youth Justice

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress has been made on the pilot projects for the youth conditional caution; and if he will make a statement. [263176]

Mr. Hanson: The consultation on the statutory code of practice governing use of the Youth Conditional Caution (YCC) for 16 and 17-year-olds was launched on 2 March 2009 and will run until 25 May 2009. Subject to parliamentary approval of the secondary legislation required to implement the YCC, we propose to begin pilots for 16 and 17-year-olds later in 2009. The process to identify pilot areas will begin shortly: publication of the draft code of practice gives potential pilot areas a clearer understanding of what piloting the YCC will involve. We will monitor the pilots closely to ensure that the YCC is used only in appropriate circumstances and that persistent offenders and those committing more serious crimes are dealt with by the courts.

Youth Justice: Parents

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to increase the involvement of parents of young people in the youth justice system; and if he will make a statement. [263174]

Mr. Hanson: In the Youth Crime Action Plan, published in July 2008, we asked for views on how to increase the engagement of parents in the Youth Justice System, including whether measures of compulsion should be used. The Government response to this consultation is due for publication in the spring.

Many of the initiatives in the Youth Crime Action Plan ensure increased involvement of parents when young people are at risk of offending or have offended.

For example, we have committed to ensuring that families with children most likely to become prolific offenders benefit from better targeting of existing services, and to increase the reach of intensive family interventions.

We are also working to increase the take up of parenting support when a child is at risk of offending or has offended, by improving training provision for parenting workers, and reminding sentencers of the effectiveness of making parenting orders. We want all parents who would benefit from support to be offered it, and for those who need it but do not engage voluntarily the support should be non-negotiable.

In addition, under Operation Staysafe (due to take place in 69 areas in 2009-10), child protection legislation is used by police to remove young people on the streets at night who are at risk of offending or becoming a victim. Young people are not simply returned to their homes. Parents are required to collect them from a place of safety, to drive home the message that parents must be engaged in relation to their child's risk of offending behaviour.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Members: Pensions

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Leader of the House what the policy is on the loan to others owned by the Members' Pension Fund. [264043]

Chris Bryant: The investment strategy of the Parliamentary Contributory Pension Fund (PCPF) is a matter for its Trustees. The Leader of the House is required to approve a Statement of Investment Principles.

The PCPF holds assets in both segregated and pooled funds. The segregated funds are held by the Custodian on behalf of the Trustees. The Trustees do not permit these assets to be used for stock lending.

The Trustees have no control of the policy on stock lending for their investments in pooled funds, which in aggregate account for approximately 45 per cent. of the total fund value. The assets within these pooled funds are used for stock lending by the fund manager in order to enhance the returns earned on the investments.

Private Members Bills

Mr. Amess: To ask the Leader of the House what Bills the Government offered to private Members to introduce in Session *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09; how many were subsequently introduced by hon. Members successful in the Private Members' ballot; and if she will make a statement. [263251]

Chris Bryant: Private Members' Bills are the responsibility of the individual Member. A range of informal discussions take place between Ministers and Members on individual proposals at different times, and proposals change throughout the Session. The Government's guidance on "handout" Bills is published in the Guide to Making Legislation, available on the Cabinet Office website at the following address:

www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/secretariats/economic_and_domestic /legislative_programme/guide_html/government_handout_bills.aspx

A full list of Private Members' Bills currently before the House can be accessed on the Parliament website.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 17 March 2009

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK service personnel are stationed at each location overseas. [249731]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Data on the number of UK Regular service personnel stationed at each location overseas as at 1 October 2008 are available in TSP 10 'UK Regular Forces Stationed Location', Table 1.1. This can be found at:

http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/apps/publications/pubViewFile.php?content=1800.1&date=2009-02-23&type=html&PublishTime=09:30:00

Copies of TSP 10 are available in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Hearing Impaired

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make an assessment of the need to provide for hearing specialists at Camp Bastion hospital to treat servicemen and women whose hearing has been affected by explosions or the use of munitions. [262185]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 10 March 2009]:* The medical facilities at Camp Bastion already include the means of examining the hearing of personnel who have been exposed to explosions or the use of munitions, and medical staff at Camp Bastion already institute hearing conservation measures when audiometry indicates that it is appropriate to do so for an individual.

The Ministry of Defence takes the issue of Noise Induced Hearing Loss (NIHL) seriously and we are continually looking at ways of monitoring and mitigating the risk in operational scenarios, including the development of improved hearing protection, while not hampering the operational effectiveness of combat personnel. A study is currently under way to determine the numbers of personnel that have been affected by acute acoustic trauma, the results of which will help to inform future policy on treatment and the provision of specialist support. I have met with The Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID) to discuss how they can further assist us and it has been agreed that they will have a representative at the Surgeon General's Working Group on Hearing Loss.

Armed Forces: Housing

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 20W, on armed forces: housing, if he will make an assessment of the reasons for the changes in numbers of houses at grade *(a)* one and *(b)* four for charge between 2005 and 2007. [264226]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Given the way Grade for Charge data are collated officials need to identify and analyse information to answer this question. I will write to the hon. Member when this work is complete and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Leave

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what mechanisms are in place for the granting of home leave to *(a)* recent recruits and *(b)* personnel under the age of 18 in the armed forces. [263454]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 16 March 2009]:* All service personnel have the same basic allocation of leave although recent recruits, including under-18s, may have leave restricted according to the stage of training they are undertaking. Compassionate leave, however, is always accessible on a case by case basis. It should also be noted that under-18s must provide evidence that they will be suitably accommodated while on leave.

Personnel in the first three years of full-time service are entitled to Get You Home Early Years Scheme which provides assistance (rail warrants or mileage claim) with leave travel up to four times a year.

Defence: Internet

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role the UK has in *(a)* supporting and *(b)* participating in the work of the NATO Co-operative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence; and if he will make a statement. [263181]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The United Kingdom is fully supportive of this Estonian-hosted Cyber Defence initiative and their endeavours in this important area. However, given the need to co-ordinate Cyber Defence with a number of other Government Departments and Allies, the MOD's preferred means of support is via virtual participation rather than attach personnel permanently to Estonia. The United Kingdom is not a founding signatory nation to this Centre of Excellence (CoE) but this position will be kept under review.

Both the Head of the MOD Defence Security and Safety Assurance organisation and a senior officer from the MOD's Joint Security Co-ordination Centre (JSyCC) have visited the Co-operative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence (CCD CoE) and have subsequently provided additional assistance to its development over the past two years.

Departmental Data Protection

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what IT security strategy his Department has in place; what steps are being taken to ensure the strategy is being followed; what policy is in place on the use of encryption when data are sent externally; and what sanctions are in place for use should the policy not be followed; [259003]

(2) what IT security policy his Department has; what procedures are in place to ensure the policy is being followed; what his Department's policy is on encryption of data when it leaves departmental premises; and what sanctions are in place for failure to comply with this policy. [259856]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 26 February 2009]:* Information is a key asset to Government and its correct handling is vital to the delivery of public services and to the integrity of HMG. The Security Policy Framework, the Data Handling Report and the National Information Assurance Strategy produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic framework for protecting information that Government handle and put in place a set of mandatory measures which Departments must adhere to.

The Department is compliant with the security policies contained in the Government Security Policy Framework including those for information security and assurance. Depending upon the circumstances, a range of sanctions are available including disciplinary or administrative action, and in extreme or persistent cases, termination of employment/services and, if appropriate, criminal proceedings.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many civil servants in his Department have been *(a)* investigated, *(b)* suspended and *(c)* dismissed for (i) losing and (ii) deliberately disclosing (A) data stored on departmental equipment and (B) confidential information in each year since 1997. [263650]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 15 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 333W, to the hon. Member for Chesterfield (Paul Holmes).

Joint Strike Fighter

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Mid Sussex, of 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 676W, on the Joint Strike Fighter aircraft, when he expects a decision on the integration of future weapons capability to be made. [244618]

Mr. Quentin Davies: In order to provide Joint Combat Aircraft (JCA) with an initial baseline air to air and precision air to ground capability, a decision has already been made to integrate Advanced Short Range Air to Air Missile and Paveway IV on to the aircraft. We plan to make decisions on the integration of the weapons systems in good time before the introduction to service of the JSF.

Met Office

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions Ministers in his Department have had with the Shareholder Executive as part of the Government's Trading Fund Review in advance of the 2009 Budget. [263880]

Mr. Kevan Jones: As part of the Department's Owners Advisory Council for each of its trading funds, Defence Ministers were briefed by a Shareholder Executive official on both the Trading Fund Assessment study, and on the Asset Management Strand of the Operational Efficiency Programme. I discussed the subject separately last November in a meeting attended by a Shareholder Executive official.

Navy: Military Bases

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost was of relocating ships' personnel and their families from Plymouth to *(a)* Portsmouth and *(b)* Faslane in each of the last 10 years. [263989]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is not held centrally.

Performing Arts

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has engaged any *(a)* actors, *(b)* musicians and *(c)* other performers to support its initiatives over the last five years. [264063]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Many actors, musicians or performers have worked to support MOD initiatives either voluntarily or having been engaged by a third party.

Submarines: Accidents

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his Department's estimate in its risk assessments of the probability of a British nuclear submarine colliding at sea with a foreign nuclear submarine was prior to 3 February. [262628]

Mr. Hutton: My Department was satisfied that the estimate of the risk of a collision at sea between a British SSBN and a foreign nuclear submarine prior to 3 February was extremely low.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Fairtrade Initiative

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what representations she has received from Tearfund on fair trade products and the 2012 Olympic Games. [263544]

Tessa Jowell: We can find no record of representations from Tearfund on fair trade products for the London 2012 Games.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Christmas

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether it is his Department's policy to offer staff *(a)* additional leave entitlement for Christmas shopping and *(b)* Christmas bonus payments. [262807]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport does not offer its staff Christmas bonus payments or additional leave entitlement for Christmas shopping.

Churches: Conservation

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much in Heritage Fund grants has been made available for the preservation of historic churches in the last 12 months. [263872]

Barbara Follett: The Heritage Lottery Fund advises that, for the financial period 2007-08, the fund awarded £30,013,041 to conserve the fabric of 531 historic churches and chapels.

Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps his Department *(a)* has undertaken and *(b)* plans to undertake in respect of its policy on (i) economic competitiveness and (ii) quality of life for residents of seaside towns in England with specific reference to sporting and cultural activities and amenities. [262990]

Barbara Follett: At the tourism summit convened by VisitBritain on 8 January this year, we considered ways to help support the industry, including that in seaside towns, through the economic downturn and beyond. We will continue to work with our NDPBs and the industry to maximise the economic competitiveness of our sectors, and people's quality of life through the provision of sporting and cultural activities and amenities, in seaside towns and other communities across the country.

The Department also has a programme specifically for seaside towns, known as Sea Change. It places culture at the heart of efforts to regenerate England's seaside resorts through investment in arts, public space, cultural assets and heritage projects. The scheme, which will run for three years from 2008-11, and which will dispense £45 million in total, will encourage new visitors to coastal areas and help to support and enrich existing communities. It is being delivered through a partnership involving Arts Council England, the Big Lottery Fund, the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, English Heritage, the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council and the regional development agencies.

Departmental Absenteeism

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff of his Department were recorded absent for non-medical reasons on *(a)* 2 February 2009 and *(b)* 3 February 2009; what estimate he has made of the (i) cost to his Department and (ii) number of working hours lost due to such absence; and what guidance his Department issued to staff in respect of absence on these days. [260475]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The offices of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport were closed at 3 pm on 2 February owing to a lack of security staff caused by travel restrictions caused by the extreme weather. On 3 February 2009, we estimate that around 40 per cent. of staff attended the office. We do not hold central records of absence or the hours worked by staff on the relevant days and are not able to make an estimate of (i) the cost to the Department nor (ii) the number of working hours lost.

On the days in question, staff were able to access information about whether the offices were closed on the internet and recovery phone line.

Further guidance was issued on 5 February, reminding staff that when DCMS buildings are open staff are expected to take all reasonable steps to get into work without endangering themselves; that if they cannot get to the office they must notify their line manager that morning; and that if they do not notify their line manager they will be expected to take any days out of the office as annual or unpaid leave.

Departmental Bank Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with which banks his Department has or has had contracts for the provision of financial advice, for the financial year 2008-09. [262762]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department has held an agreement with Goldman Sachs for the provision of financial advice in connection with the possible sale of the Tote.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff in his Department *(a)* were disciplined and *(b)* had their employment terminated as a result of a poor sickness record in each of the last 12 months. [262247]

Mr. Sutcliffe: No staff in my Department have been disciplined or had their employment terminated as a result of a poor sickness record over the last 12 months.

Departmental Lost Property

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what property has been lost or stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what the estimated cost was of replacement of such property. [263122]

Mr. Sutcliffe: During the period 1 March 2008 to 28 February 2009 the following items were lost or stolen.

Item	*Date*	*Lost/Stolen*	*Estimated cost of replacement (£)*
Memory stick	March 2008	Lost	10
Disk drive	May 2008	Lost	22
Mobile phone	May 2008	Lost	100
Blackberry	May 2008	Stolen	195
Blackberry	29 January 2009	Stolen	195
Mobile phone	25 February 2009	Lost	100

During the period 1 March 2008 to 28 February 2009 the following three works of art have gone missing from the Government Art Collection and are still missing.

GACL90—'Monument to Balance', 4/30 print by Ernest A. Dunn

Reported missing from British consulate-general, Sao Paulo, July 2008

Estimated cost of replacement: £100

GAC12775—'The Wording of Police Charges', 37/150 1970 print by R. B. Kitaj

GAC1275— 'Plague', 37/150 1970 print by R. B. Kitaj

Both reported missing from British embassy, Baku, July 2008

Estimated cost of replacement: £500 each.

Departmental NDPBs

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport in respect of which projects each of his Department's non-departmental public bodies will receive ring-fenced funding in each of the next three years; and what the cost of each such project will be. [255930]

Andy Burnham: At the conclusion of Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 negotiations, only funding to the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, and funding to the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLAC) for Renaissance in the Regions and the Government Indemnity Scheme, were depicted as being ring-fenced. ODA funding, which represents the maximum expected cost to the Exchequer, is broken down as follows:

	£ million
2008-09	1539
2009-10	1014
2010-11	1050

This answer does not include the funding amounts for MLAC, which were detailed in my answer on 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 2276-78W, to the hon. Member for South-West Surrey (Mr. Hunt).

Funding for 2011-12 for the Department's non-departmental public bodies falls outside of the current spending review period, and will be the subject of detailed negotiation at a later date.

Government Olympic Executive

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on *(a)* administration and *(b)* staff salaries in each of the last five years; and what proportion of each has been spent on the Government Olympic Executive. [263982]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The information requested is set out in the table. As the Government Olympic Executive (GOE) was formed in 2005, the table does not show data for the years prior to that.

£000

Financial year	Net DCMS administration cost	Of which: GOE administration cost	DCMS staff salaries cost	Of which: GOE staff salaries cost
2007-08	54,426	5,538	26,040	2,870
2006-07	51,071	3,101	24,890	1,689
2005-06	46,673	1,395	22,191	678
2004-05	40,452	[1]	19,814	[1]
2003-04	39,335	[1]	18,657	[1]

[1] Not applicable

National Lottery: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been spent on promoting *(a)* national lottery games and *(b)* Olympic lottery games in each quarter since the launch of the Olympic lottery. [264036]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 16 March 2009]:* Under the terms of the licence to operate the national lottery, Camelot is required to spend a minimum amount per annum on marketing national lottery games for the benefit of good causes. The annual levels are calculated according to a formula laid down in the licence. The minimum marketing expenditure (MME) for each financial year from 2005-06 is given in the following table.

Financial year	Minimum marketing expenditure (£)
2005-06	75,000,000
2006-07	73,391,484
2007-08	74,521,348

As the commercial operator, it is at Camelot's discretion to spend in excess of the MME as required to ensure the effective promotion of national lottery games. Camelot have advised that quarterly breakdowns of promotional expenditure on national lottery games is considered to be a matter of commercial sensitivity and should not be released.

Camelot have advised that it is not possible to disaggregate expenditure on promoting Olympic lottery games from the rest of the portfolio as they consider that this information would be commercially sensitive.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how much has been spent by the national lottery promotions unit in 2008-09; [264037]

(2) what the budget for the national lottery promotions unit is for 2008-09. [264038]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 16 March 2009]:* Between 1 April 2008 and 31 December 2008, the national lottery promotions unit (NLPU) spent £1,609,351 delivering public relations campaigns that enable the public to access information about lottery funding and the difference it is making to their communities.

All work is independently evaluated and assessed and in the period 1 April 2008 to 31 December 2008 it was estimated that the NLPU had delivered activity with a value of over £54,407,032 which represents a return on investment of 33:1. Figures for the last three months of the financial year are not yet available.

For the current financial year the national lottery promotions unit has a budget of £2,667,121.

Performing Arts

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department has engaged any *(a)* actors, *(b)* musicians and *(c)* other performers to support its initiatives over the last five years. [264053]

Barbara Follett: The Department and its non-departmental public bodies regularly draw upon the talents of individuals within the sectors that fall under the Department's responsibility, but a list is not held centrally.

Public Houses

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he plans to publish the Government's response to the findings of the Community Pubs Inquiry report. [263698]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 16 March 2009]:* The recommendations in the Community Pubs Inquiry report cover the policy interests of several Government Departments. Consequently it has taken time to collate a Government response. However, our report is being finalised and we hope to respond shortly.

Royal Parks Agency: Finance

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what revenues have been raised by the Royal Parks Agency in each Royal Park from *(a)* car park charges, *(b)* fixed penalty notices, *(c)* other fines and *(d)* other revenues in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [263809]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 16 March 2009]:* The Royal Parks (TRP) advise that there are visitor parking facilities in five of London's eight Royal Parks: Hyde park, Regent's park, Greenwich park, Richmond park and Bushey park.

TRP advise that there is no charge at present for parking in Richmond or Bushey parks, but parking charges have applied in Hyde park and Regent's park since 1994 and in Greenwich park since 2000. Revenue received by TRP from parking charges over the last five financial years is as follows:

Car parking

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	£000 2007-08
Hyde park	256	263	282	339	330
Regent's park	498	513	630	782	896
Greenwich park	186	148	157	196	252
Total	940	966	1,069	1,317	1,468

The figures shown above include income from excess charge notices (penalties for failing to display a valid parking ticket), which break down as follows:

Excess charge notices

	2003-04[1]	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	£000 2007-08
Hyde park	2.5	23	35	50	53
Regent's park	5	38	59	87	99
Greenwich park	4	29	39	45	47
Total	11.5	90	133	182	199

[1] Records are not available for the period prior to December 2003

TRP does not receive any revenue from fixed penalty notices or other fines, but receives revenue from catering and other concessions, from fees for events, permits and licences, and from rents. Over the past five years these revenues, park by park, were as follows:

Other revenue

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	£000 2007-08
Hyde park	2,139	2,484	2,363	2,622	2,602
St. James's park	608	1,015	1,114	1,274	1,796
Kensington Gardens	220	198	286	340	302
The Regent's park	699	678	1,284	1,086	1,282
Greenwich park	177	186	224	275	280
Richmond park	338	544	628	759	906
Bushy park	181	147	165	180	210
Total	4,368	5,340	6,030	6,536	7,378

These figures exclude grants for agency-wide projects, which are managed centrally.

Sport England

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport by what date he expects the Sport England Strategy for 2008 to 2011 to have been implemented. [261466]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 6 March 2009]:* Sport England's new strategy runs between April 2008 and March 2011, and implementation is ongoing during this period.

A key element of the strategy is Sport England's investment in national governing bodies of sport (NGBs). 46 NGBs have been commissioned to deliver specific outcomes over four years, contributing to the outcomes Sport England has committed to achieving, including 1 million more people engaged in sport by 2012-13.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Training

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether his Department has provided voice coaching to any of its employees in the last 12 months. [260643]

Ann McKechin: My Office has not provided voice coaching for staff in the last 12 months.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Training

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether his Department has provided voice coaching to any of its employees in the last 12 months. [260642]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office has not provided voice coaching for any employees in the last 12 months.

Sexual Offences: Prosecutions

Mrs. Iris Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people have been *(a)* charged with and *(b)* convicted of sex offences in Northern Ireland in each of the last six years. [260136]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The data are not in the format requested as only case-based data are available. As several persons may be involved in a crime and only one person is required to clear a crime that has been committed, it is only possible to give the number of cases of sexual offences that were cleared by means of a charge or summons. This information is documented in Table 1 for the years 2002-03 to 2007-08.

(b) Table 2 documents those convicted of a sexual offence for the calendar years 2001 to 2006 (the latest years for which data are available). Data are collated on the principal offence rule; only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

It is not possible to compare the data provided in the two tables as those relating to Table 1 are case-based while those relating to Table 2 are person-based.

Table 1: Sexual offences crimes cleared by means of a charge or summons 2002-03 to 2007-08

	Number
2002-03	236
2003-04	295
2004-05	311
2005-06	304
2006-07	357
2007-08	314

Table 2: Convictions for sexual offences 2001-06

	Number
2001	112
2002	84
2003	108
2004	137
2005	136
2006	161

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Assaults on Police

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission in which incidents *(a)* police officers, *(b)* armed police officers and *(c)* security officers have been injured in the course of their work in (i) the Palace of Westminster and (ii) the parliamentary estate in each of the last five years for which figures are available; at which location each injury occurred; whether any person was subsequently (A) arrested and (B) convicted of causing injury; and if he will make a statement. [263342]

Nick Harvey: There are two relevant incidents recorded within the last five years:

25 February 2008: Security officer apprehended a youth apparently stealing a bicycle (on Millbank). During the course of this incident the security officer sustained a grazed knee. There was insufficient evidence to proceed with prosecution of the suspect.

8 October 2006: A police officer was spat on (at Carriage Gates Entrance). The suspect was cautioned at Charing Cross police station for assault of a police officer.

Information and Communications Technology

Jo Swinson: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what steps are being taken to increase the number of sockets providing access to the Parliamentary network for network users in *(a)* 1 Parliament Street and *(b)* other parts of the parliamentary estate to allow all computers in hon. Members' offices to access the network at the same time. [263869]

Nick Harvey: There are no proposals to increase the number of sockets available in Members' offices across the estate; nor, so far as I am aware, is there any demand for such an increase. Any individual cases would be looked at on their merits, including the costs involved and the capacity of the system in the area.

Theft

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission how many cases of theft from inside *(a)* the Palace of Westminster and *(b)* each other building on the Parliamentary estate were reported in each of the last five years; what items were reported stolen; what the estimated value of each was; and if he will make a statement. [261478]

Nick Harvey: The recorded statistics for thefts from the parliamentary estate are:

Thefts reported on the parliamentary estate 2004-08

Date	Victim	Venue	Allegation	Value (£)
2008				
12 February	Staff	Millbank	Theft of Cash	40
15 April	MP	Portcullis House	Theft of camera	200
19 April	Staff	Canon Row	Theft of sandwich	1,000
7 May	Staff	House of Lords	Theft of cash	32
15 May	MP	Commons Court	Theft from motor vehicle	1,500
25 June	C.P.A.	C.P.A.	Theft of computer	649.00
17 July	Member of public	Strangers Gallery	Theft of cash	50.00
23 September	Staff	7 Millbank	Theft of cash	82.00
27 September	House of Commons	Portcullis House	Theft of chairs	1,000.00
16 October	HOL Refreshment Dept	HOL	Theft of money	661.00
7 November	Staff	Sports & Social Club	Theft of coat	130.00
10 November	Staff	Lower Secretaries	Theft of computer	700.00

Thefts reported on the parliamentary estate 2004-08

Date	*Victim*	*Venue*	*Allegation*	*Value (£)*
21 November	Staff	State Officers Court	Theft of pedal cycle	400.00
2007				
2 January	Staff	Norman Shaw North	Theft of cash	35
10 January	PICT	7 Millbank	Theft of laptop	700
27 January	Member	Portcullis House	Theft of rugs	800
10 July	Staff	HOL Library intake	Theft of cash	35
25 May	PWD	Bandstand Area	Theft of cable drums x 2	2,700
15 November	Member	Portcullis House	Theft of cash	20
2008				
24 January	Staff	Palm Court	Theft and use of SIM card	739.75
11 February	Staff	Star Chamber Court	Theft of lights	20
20 February	Staff	Vote Office	Theft employee	30
20 February	Staff	Vote Office	Obtaining services by deception	30
20 March	Staff	Bellamy's Male Locker Room	Theft of shoes x 2 pairs	60
20 April	Staff	Upper Committee Corridor	Theft of CD re-writer	60
25 May	Staff	Flower Shop	Theft of flowers	£30
25 May	PICT	4 Millbank	Theft of laptop	1,200
28 June	Staff	Portcullis House	Theft of mobile phone	'—
15 October	Staff	Post Office	Theft of cash	1,705
9 October	Member	St Stephens Tower	Theft of dictaphone	300
29 November	Member	Portcullis House	Theft of cash	218
4 December	Member	St Stephens Tower	Theft of laptop	300
2007				
26 January	Visitor	Dining Room corridor, HOC	Theft of bag	138
2 February	PWD	Portcullis House	Theft of shower fixtures and fittings	360
10 February	PWD	Norman Shaw North	Theft of armoured cable	50
23 February	Member	1 Parliament Street	Theft of 4 briefcases	80
16 March	Staff	7 Millbank	Theft of cash and pass	15
15 March	PCD	7 Millbank	Theft of mobile phone	100
29 March	Staff	Terrace Pavilion	Theft of cash	350
27 June	Staff	Press Gallery	Theft of mobile phone	213
14 June	PCD	7 Millbank	Theft of computers x 17	'—
19 June	Staff	Norman Shaw North	Theft of mobile phone	10
19 June	Member	House of Commons	Theft of sunglasses	200
29 July	Staff	Star Chamber Court	Theft of bicycle	250
20 August	Staff	7 Millbank	Theft of cash	1,530
24 August	Staff	Portcullis House	Theft of cash	20
23 August	Staff	Lower Secretarial	Theft of scarf	100
14 September	Staff	Portacabin Black Rod Gardens	Theft of wallet	45
12 October	Member	Portcullis House	Theft of laptop	500
25 October	PWD	7 Millbank	Theft of scanner	420
11 November	Member	Upper Committee Corridor	Theft of mobile phone	'—
28 November	Member	Portcullis House	Theft of laptop	500
9 December	Member	Portcullis House	Theft of cash	20
2008				
13 January	Staff	Canon Row	Theft of diary	0.80
19 January	Staff	Bandstand Courtyard	Theft of cash	465
3 February	Member	Opposition Block	Theft of mobile phone	100
6 February	Staff	Old Engineers Control	Theft of mobile phone	250
18 March	Member	o/s 4 Millbank	Theft of pedal cycle	200
7 April	Staff	Cloister HOC	Theft of books and case	120
30 March	Staff	Not known	Theft of purse	'—
18 March	Member	Not known	Theft of post	'—
1 April	Member	Members Tea Room	Theft of documents and camera lens	200
17 May	PWD	Committee Room 18	Theft of multi-media projector	1,800
10 June	Staff	Parliament Street	Theft of cash and debit card	100
20 June	Staff	Lady's Members Rest Room	Theft of purse	310
26 July	Staff	Committee Corridor	Theft of wristwatch	400
22 September	Staff	Press Gallery Lift	Theft of tools and drill	300

Thefts reported on the parliamentary estate 2004-08

Date	*Victim*	*Venue*	*Allegation*	*Value (£)*
18 March	Staff	Portcullis House	Theft of laptop battery	50
1 September	Staff	Portcullis House	Theft of floppy disc	40
1 October	Staff	7 Millbank	Theft of cash	670.20
26 October	SAA	Serjeant at Arms	Theft of IPAQ	300
18 November	PWD	Whips Court	Theft of flat screen	560
21 December	Member	Opposition Block	Theft of laptop computer	1,404

[1] No amount shown.

TREASURY

1 Carlton Gardens

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Crown Estate plans to renew the lease for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's use of No. 1 Carlton Gardens. [263507]

Angela Eagle: This matter has not yet been decided.

Air Passenger Duty

Mr. Jenkins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the average annual proportion of UK tax paid by non-domiciled UK residents which is accounted for by payment of UK air passenger duty. [263419]

Angela Eagle: The information to make an estimate is not available.

Banks: Fraud

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what mechanisms are in place to compensate people for financial loss incurred as a result of fraud in relation to retail banks. [264227]

Ian Pearson: The Financial Services Compensation Scheme will compensate persons who are eligible to claim under its rules in the event that a UK authorised bank is unable, or likely to be unable, to pay claims against it, including where the bank is unable to pay claims as a result of fraud.

British Brands Group

David Taylor: To ask Mr Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have met the (i) British Brands Group and (ii) Anti-Counterfeiting Group in each of the last five years; and which subjects were discussed on each occasion. [263856]

Angela Eagle: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors. This forms part of the Department's processes for policy development and delivery. It is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Business: Government Assistance

Peter Luff: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what resources have been provided to Capital for Enterprise Ltd for the additional workload required for implementation of the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme. [259157]

Ian Pearson: The Enterprise Finance Guarantee scheme has been implemented within the existing 2008-09 budgeted resource provision for Capital for Enterprise Limited (CfEL). The Department is currently reviewing the resource requirement going forward through discussion with CfEL.

Departmental Lost Property

John Mason: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what property has been lost or stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what the estimated cost was of replacement of such property. [263106]

Angela Eagle: The following items of HM Treasury property were reported lost or stolen during 2008:

	Property lost or stolen
Lost	2 mobile phones 3 blackberry mobile devices 2 mobile phone chargers
Stolen	1 desk key 1 set of work keys 2 corporate credit cards

The total cost of replacement is estimated at £1,000.

Departmental Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 103W, on departmental surveys, if he will place in the Library a copy of the results of his Department's most recent annual staff survey. [263400]

Angela Eagle: The most recent annual staff survey was conducted in December 2008. As in previous years the survey suppliers are providing a summary of the results to be put on the HM Treasury public website. This will be made available by the end of March 2009.

I will place a copy of this summary in the Library once it is available.

Financial Services Authority: ICT

Tim Farron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of suppliers of systems integration services to the Financial Services Authority completed projects on time and on budget in each of the last five years. [264229]

Ian Pearson: This is an operational matter for the FSA. The FSA will respond to the hon. Member directly.

Government Departments: Procurement

Stephen Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of levels of procurement of office supplies from UK-based businesses by Government Departments. [263478]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is not held centrally.

Non-profit Making Associations

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Oxford, East of 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 530W, on non-profit making associations, if he will discuss with the Office of Government Commerce the scope for accelerating its work. [263350]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 105W, on Public Sector: Procurement. An update on the progress in implementing the Glover recommendations will be provided at Budget 2009.

VAT

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the annual cost to the Exchequer of cutting VAT to 15 per cent. which is accounted for by expenditure by households in each income decile. [262311]

Mr. Timms: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave to her on 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 262-63W.

In addition, table 14 in "The Effects of Taxes and Benefits on Household Incomes, 2006-07", http://www.statistics.gov.uk/elmr/07_08/downloads/ELMR_Jul08_Jones.pdf, presents information on spending on VAT, on average, accounted for by households in each income decile.

The Treasury has made no such assessment, but from these proportions it is possible to infer the estimated annual cost of the VAT rate reduction by income decile (although such estimates would be unreliable).

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the annual cost to the Exchequer of reducing the rate of value added tax to 15 per cent. accounted for by households where the head of the household is aged *(a)* 25 or under, *(b)* 26 to 30, *(c)* 31 to 35, *(d)* 36 to 40, *(e)* 41 to 45, *(f)* 46 to 50, *(g)* 51 to 55, *(h)* 56 to 60, *(i)* 61 to 65, *(j)* 66 to 70, *(k)* 71 to 75, *(l)* 76 to 80 and *(m)* over 80. [264202]

Mr. Timms: No such estimate has been made.

VAT: Accountancy

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his estimate is of the annual *(a)* revenue cost and *(b)* cash flow impact on the Exchequer of making value added tax (VAT) cash accounting available to all VAT-registered traders. [255052]

Mr. Timms: It is estimated that making cash accounting available to all VAT-registered traders would have an accruals and cash cost to the Exchequer of £1.6 billion in the first year and negligible cost thereafter. The cash accounting threshold was doubled in 2007 and is already as high as is permitted under the UK's derogation from EU law.

TRANSPORT

Bus Services: Young People

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward proposals to introduce a pilot scheme for concessionary bus travel for young adults between the ages of 17 and 25 years. [263564]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 13 March 2009]:* There are no plans to make concessionary travel a statutory entitlement for young people. At present 48 per cent. of young people walk or cycle to school and there is a risk that a blanket England-wide concession could encourage young people who currently walk or cycle instead to take the bus.

Local authorities can use their existing powers to offer local concessionary travel to young people and many do offer some kind of concession. We believe local authorities are best placed to make this decision, based on their own assessment of needs and circumstances.

Dartford-Thurrock Crossing: Tolls

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people have registered for the DART-Tag scheme for the Dartford Crossing. [261777]

Paul Clark: There were 91,684 accounts with 250,979 DART-Tags on 4 March 2009.

Departmental Bank Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with which banks his Department has or has had contracts for the provision of financial advice, for the financial year 2008-09. [262755]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport has had contracts in place with UBS Ltd., Merrill Lynch International and Citigroup Global Markets Ltd. for the provision of financial advice in the financial year 2008-09.

Departmental Manpower

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which new policy areas for which his Department has acquired responsibility have resulted in headcount additions in his Department agreed with the Treasury and the Office of Government Commerce in the last two years. [262940]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport has not acquired any new policy areas which have resulted in headcount additions agreed with the Treasury and the Office of Government Commerce in the last two years.

Departmental Travel

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's criteria for approving overseas business travel for senior civil servants. [262938]

Mr. Hoon: All official travel in the Department for Transport is carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Civil Service Management Code. The Department does not publish any separate criteria for senior civil servants.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many visits *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers and *(c)* departmental officials made abroad in 2008. [262458]

Mr. Hoon: Ministers of the Department for Transport made 13 visits overseas in 2008. Of these, five were by the Secretary of State and eight by other Ministers.

The Department does not record the travel undertaken by officials by numbers of visits and the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Driving Offences: Fines

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been paid into the Consolidated Fund from each type of fine on motorists in each year since 1997. [262420]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Fixed penalties and certain other enforcement income in respect of non-payment of vehicle excise duty is paid to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA). The amounts remitted by DVLA to the Consolidated Fund in recent years are given as follows.

The Department for Transport does not collect information on fines imposed by magistrates or Crown courts or by the police.

Enforcement of vehicle excise duty: Fines and related income remitted by DVLA to HM Treasury Consolidated Fund

	£ million
2002-03	36.3
2003-04	29.3
2004-05	32.1
2005-06	39.7
2006-07	40.0
2007-08	47.0

Heathrow Airport

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1726W, on Heathrow Airport: air pollution, on what date Ministers concluded that air quality limits had been met in relation to the *(a)* third runway and *(b)* mixed mode scenarios consulted on in the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport public consultation; and if he will make a statement. [263862]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 16 March 2009]:* Further to my answer on 5 March, Ministers received advice in September 2007 confirming the position and subsequently agreed this for the purposes of consultation. Final decisions in the light of consultation responses were taken shortly before the announcement on 15 January 2009.

High Speed Trains

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what changes to transport infrastructure will be required to accommodate the new high speed railway tracks by 2013. [263878][1]

Paul Clark: "Britain's Transport Infrastructure: High Speed Two", published on 15 January and available on the Department for Transport's website and the Libraries of the House, sets out what we expect High Speed Two to deliver.

The remit of the company is to consider and to provide advice to the Government on the costs and benefits of:

(a) A proposed route between London and the west midlands with any options as appropriate;

(b) Options for a "Heathrow International" interchange station on the Great Western main line with an interchange also with Crossrail;

(c) Options for access to central London and the other cities served;

(d) Options for linking with HS1 and the existing rail network, including the potential for services to continental Europe;

(e) Financing and construction proposals.

In response to a letter dated 13 February from Sir David Rowlands, Chairman of High Speed Two, my noble Friend the Minister responsible for rail wrote to the company on 10 March setting out in more detail what the Government expect by the end of the year. Both letters have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Lichfield Trent Valley Station

Michael Fabricant: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when Lichfield Trent Valley railway station will be *(a)* refurbished and *(b)* provided with disabled access to the platforms serving the southbound West Coast Main Line and the eastbound Birmingham line; and if he will make a statement. [263523]

Paul Clark: There are currently no plans to carry out work at Lichfield Trent Valley under the Access for All or National Stations Improvement Programmes. However, London Midland are exploring options with the local authority to redevelop the whole site to improve station facilities, provide additional car parking and if possible, provide step-free access to all platforms.

If such a project can be developed, we would welcome an application for partial funding from the Access for All Small Schemes fund. An accessible ticket machine has recently been installed and improvements to the toilet and waiting facilities are due in the summer. Information points, customer information screens and a public address system are also planned.

M1: Speed Limits

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport to what speed cameras the speed camera signs on gantries over the M1 motorway between junctions 8 and 9 relate; where such cameras are situated; how many speed cameras *(a)* are in place and *(b)* are to be put in place on the M1 motorway for the purpose of detecting the speed of vehicles; and where each is situated. [263391]

1. *[Official Report, 25 March 2009, Vol. 490, c. 3MC.]*

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 16 March 2009]:* The signs that can currently be found between junctions 8 and 9 on the M1 are there to advise road users that speed enforcement is taking place over this stretch of the motorway.

Currently there are no fixed cameras in place between junctions 8 and 9, as they have not yet been installed, but fixed cameras will be installed over the coming months. Police also operate in this area and will continue to enforce the national speed limit on this and other stretches of the M1.

There are currently 11 gantries in each direction between junctions 8 and 9 of the M1. One gantry in each direction includes the equipment to enforce the speed limit. There will be cameras over every lane in each direction.

Plans for the location of cameras on other sections of the M1 which are planned to be improved will be agreed nearer the time that the improvements are due to open.

M25

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the cost of widening *(a)* junctions 16 to 23 and *(b)* junctions 27 to 30 of the M25; and how much of this sum he expects to come from the public purse. [261607]

Paul Clark: Both of these widening schemes form part of the M25 design, build, finance and operate (DBFO) contract that is currently in the final stages of negotiation. The latest estimates of the cost of these widening schemes are based on the tendered prices submitted by the preferred bidder, Connect Plus. However, these are commercially sensitive until the contract is awarded.

The last estimate, prior to receipt of tenders for the DBFO contract, was made in July 2007. At that time the cost of widening junctions 16 to 23 was estimated at £697 million and junctions 27 to 30 at £583 million.

As these works are being procured through a private finance initiative (PFI) contract it is planned that they will funded by borrowings from the private sector which are recovered from the Highways Agency out of availability payments over the life of the contract. These payments are subject to contractor performance. In light of current financial circumstances the Government may elect to lend to the project if insufficient private sector funds are available. However, this is not yet determined.

M62: East Riding

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects the M62 motorway between Hull and the junction with the M18 to be clear of roadworks and lane closures in both directions; and if he will make a statement. [263535]

Paul Clark: Current roadworks on the M62 between Hull and the M18 are the Balkholme to Gilberdyke major resurfacing scheme and the replacement of Addle Lane Bridge between junctions 37 and 38.

This work is planned for completion in June 2009 when traffic management and any lane closures on the M62 will be fully removed.

Railway Stations: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of *(a)* railway stations and *(b)* transport interchanges have local taxi facilities which are accessible to disabled people. [263008]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not hold the information requested as this is matter for local authorities.

Railways: Franchises

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2132W, on railways: franchises, what research his Department has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* evaluated on assumptions about (i) economic growth and (ii) passenger volumes in the franchise agreements for these lines in the last 12 months. [261513]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport monitors revenues on all franchises, and forms an internal view about likely future trends as part of its routine monitoring of franchisees. The Department is also carrying out research looking at a large sample of passenger flows across England, Wales and Scotland in order to improve our understanding of how economic and other factors have influenced the growth in rail patronage in recent years. This is due to complete at the end of 2009, and will be used to inform the Department's forecasting work.

Railways: Freight

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent in each region on rail freight grants in each of the last 10 years. [261888]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 9 March 2009]:* There are two types of rail freight grants:

revenue support for the operation of rail services; and

capital funding for the construction of freight facilities.

In both cases grants are justified by the environmental benefits of removing lorry traffic from the roads.

Figures in this answer relate to grants awarded by: the Department for Transport; the Department for Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR); the Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions (DTLR); and the Strategic Rail Authority (SRA).

Revenue support grants fund services that could pass through a number of regions and therefore a region by region breakdown is not possible. The following table gives the budget for revenue grants for each of the past 10 years:

	Budget (£ million)
1999-2000	16.7
2000-01	20.0
2001-02	27.0
2002-03	30.0
2003-04	19.6
2004-05	24.5
2005-06	23.9
2006-07	24.5
2007-08	18.5
2008-09	23.3

The allocation shown for 2007-08 and 2008-09 is provided through the Sustainable Distribution Fund. Of this £17 million was provided for rail resource grants in 2007-08 and our current forecasts show £19.4 million likely to be provided in 2008-09.

Capital grants awarded for facilities in regions of England over the past 10 years are shown in the following table. Grants provided for moveable assets are not included as a region cannot be assigned. The benefits of reduced lorry traffic as a result of a grant awarded will generally not be limited to the region in which the facility is located.

Regions	*1999-00*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	£ *2008-09*
East midlands	0	0	1,415,336	0	28,286	0	0	0
Eastern	0	474,046	11,739,061	5,847,844	0	0	0	0
London	1,194,436	2,609,484	6,020,360	0	915,972	1,249,280	1,150,938	1,325,578
North-east	1,695,280	1,068,560	1,582,443	0	0	0	0	0
North-west	6,344,080	7,733,437	2,270,490	1,631,345	0	0	0	0
South-east	0	125,540	2,388,000	0	0	0	0	0
South-west	0	16,163,380	1,470,979	1,061,313	0	0	0	0
West midlands	1,881,600	1,956,690	9,161,079	1,908,256	0	0	65,913	0
Yorkshire and Humberside	0	823,220	1,258,259	6,267,270	0	0	0	0

The SRA suspended the Freight Facilities Grant (FFG) programme for most rail projects in 2003, although grants continued to be available for aggregate-based facilities through the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund. FFGs were reintroduced for all rail schemes by the Department in April 2007.

Railways: Statistics

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what rail datasets held by his Department supply data broken down by *(a)* constituency, *(b)* local authority, *(c)* county and *(d)* region. [262454]

Paul Clark: The rail datasets held by the Department for Transport that can supply data by constituency, local authority, county and region are the National Rail Travel Survey (NRTS) and the national rail element of the 2001 London Area Transport Survey (LATS).

Road Traffic

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on shared space initiatives in the last five years. [262934]

Paul Clark: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I have given today (UIN 262452).

Road Traffic: Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average daily flow of *(a)* heavy goods vehicles and *(b)* other vehicles was on each section of the (i) A11 and (ii) A14 in Suffolk in each of the last five years. [263430]

Paul Clark: A table providing annual average daily flows (AADFs) of *(a)* heavy goods vehicles and *(b)* other vehicles on each section of the (i) A11 and (ii) A14 in Suffolk has been deposited in the Libraries of the House.

These figures give estimates of the number of vehicles travelling along individual sections of road on an average day of the year. Two sections of the A14 in Cambridgeshire have been included for continuity.

The figures provided in the table are for the period 2003-07. More recent data for 2008 will be released in June 2009. AADF data for individual motorway and 'A' road links for 1999 to 2007 are available on our website at:

www.dft.gov.uk/matrix

Roads

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on traffic initiatives designed to integrate road users via shared space initiatives. [262452]

Paul Clark: In the late 1990s, the Department for Transport commissioned research into home zones and quiet lanes, which are forms of shared space in residential streets and rural roads respectively. The research involved evaluating pilot schemes to assist in developing subsequent legislation and guidance.

We have also evaluated shared space research, commissioned by the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association and home zones research, commissioned by the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee. Both projects identified the difficulties faced by some disabled people in these environments.

To better understand these difficulties the Department recently commissioned a major shared space research project. The two-year project started in February 2009.

Roads: Accidents

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many road traffic accidents there were in each police force area in each year since 1997; [264231]

(2) how many *(a)* fatalities and *(b)* injuries there were in road traffic accidents in each police force area in each year since 1997. [264232]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Tables showing the number of (a) accidents (b) fatalities and (c) injuries resulting from reported personal injury road accidents in each police force area in Great Britain from 1997 to 2007 have been deposited in the Libraries of the House.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* accidents and *(b)* deaths on rural roads involving uninsured drivers there were in each (i) local authority area and (ii) constituency in each year since 1997. [264274]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 598-99W.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many deaths on rural roads in each *(a)* local authority area and *(b)* constituency there were in each year since 1997. [264278]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Tables showing the numbers of deaths on rural roads in each local authority area and constituency resulting from reported personal injury road accidents in Great Britain from 1997 to 2007 have been deposited in the Libraries of the House.

Roads: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make it his policy to support provision of an additional access road for Canvey Island for economic reasons. [263280]

Paul Clark: Any proposed access road to Canvey Island is the responsibility for Essex county council, as local highway authority.

Should the council, in liaison with Castle Point borough council, decide to promote such a scheme, it would need to obtain the East of England region's agreement to prioritise the scheme for funding within its regional funding allocation for major transport schemes.

The council would then need to submit a detailed major scheme business case for the scheme, in line with Department for Transport guidance, for consideration and assessment by the Department.

Alternatively, the council could seek funding from its own or through third party sources.

Roads: Snow and Ice

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he plans to take to assess the appropriateness of arrangements for stockpiling and distribution of salt and grit for use on roads in cold weather. [262242]

Paul Clark: I refer the hon. Member to the Secretary of State for Transport's written ministerial statement of 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 29-32WS, which advised that the UK Roads Liaison Group had been asked to review the lessons learnt in respect of the supply and stock holding of salt for use on roads during the recent period of adverse weather.

Roads: Statistics

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what road *(a)* safety, *(b)* user and *(c)* congestion datasets held by his Department supply data, broken down by (i) constituency, (ii) local authority, (iii) county and (iv) region. [262456]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is given in the following table:

Dataset available at	*(i) Constituency*	*(ii) Local authority*	*(iii) County*	*(iv) Government office region*	*(v) Data scope*
Road accidents (Stats 19)[1]	Yes	Yes[2]	Yes	Yes	GB
Congestion—Inter-urban	No	No	No	Yes[3]	England
Congestion—Urban	No	Partial[4]	No	No	England
Traffic	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	GB
Road lengths	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	GB
National Travel Survey	No	No[5]	No[5]	Yes	GB
Road freight[6]	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	UK
Registered vehicles	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	GB
Bus and light rail passengers	No	No	No	Yes	GB
Concessionary fares schemes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	England and Wales
Bus Passenger Satisfaction Survey	No	No	No	Yes	England
Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	England and Wales
Blue Badges Survey	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	England
Decriminalised Parking Survey	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	England and Wales
Vehicle Excise Duty Evasion	No	No	No	Yes	UK

[1] With the exception of contributory factor data and drink and drive data, which are only available at Government office region level.
[2] Local highway authority.
[3] Data are available by road section and some road sections may cover more than one Government office region.
[4] Currently, urban congestion data are published for the 10 largest urban areas in England, which are combinations of local authority areas.
[5] Some limited results can be supplied at this level for some local authorities and counties, where sample sizes are sufficient to produce robust estimates.
[6] Vehicles over 3.5 tonnes gross weight

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent guidance issued by his Department to local authorities on the use of safety cameras. [262942]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport issued DFT Circular 01/2007, guidance on the deployment of speed and red light cameras on 31 January 2007. The guidance was placed in the Library of the House and is also available on the Department's website.

Taxis

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effects on other aspects of the transport system of the provision of accessible taxis. [263006]

Paul Clark: The Impact Assessment in the recently published consultation 'Improving Access to Taxis' assesses costs and issues in relation to accessible taxis, as well as the taxi trade, customers and local authorities. The impacts on the wider transport system have not been assessed.

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made on *(a)* guidance on and *(b)* regulations for local authority licensing of accessible taxis. [263009]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport is currently consulting on this issue. The consultation document 'Improving Access to Taxis' was published on 2 February 2009 and explores the ways of improving access to taxis by disabled people.

Train Operating Companies

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department plans to take to increase the accountability to the public of the performance of train operating companies. [262926]

Paul Clark: Train operators are accountable for their performance to the Department for Transport through their franchise agreement, and to the public via published results.

The rail industry regularly publishes train performance information, and a requirement exists for train operators to publish their performance against target at most stations.

Passenger Focus, the independent passenger watchdog, also issues bi-annual National Passenger Survey results which reflect passengers' perceptions of performance and service quality.

Transport: Crimes

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many offences *(a)* in total and *(b)* of violence against the person, *(c)* sexual offences, *(d)* robbery, *(e)* burglary, *(f)* against vehicles, *(g)* other forms of theft, *(h)* fraud and forgery, (ii) criminal damage and (j) related to drugs have been recorded by the British Transport Police in each year since 1998-99. [262332]

Paul Clark: This information is not held by the Department for Transport, but by the British Transport Police who can be contacted at:

British Transport Police
25 Camden Road
London
NW1 9LN
E-mail:
parliament@btp.pnn.police.uk

Tugboats: Fees and Charges

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make it his policy to charge a fee towards tug protection on laid-up shipping at anchor within UK territorial waters. [264147]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There are no plans to charge fees for the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's (MCA) tug protection services.

The MCA is not aware of any vessels that have been "laid up" at anchor. Anchored vessels must be maintained in a fully operational state.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

British Energy: EDF Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what requirements have been placed on EDF regarding the disposal of potential nuclear sites as a result of the sale of British Energy. [255947]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The obligations for EDF to sell certain potential nuclear new build sites are as set out in the Sites Undertaking entered into between EDF and HM Government, copies of which were placed in the Library of the House on 24 September 2008. The European Commission as part of its clearance of the acquisition of British Energy has received certain undertakings from EDF that are slightly different from those agreed in the Sites Undertaking and these are as set out in the announcement of its decision on 22 December 2008. It is envisaged that when the Commission has published its full decision the Sites Undertaking will be amended to reflect these developments.

Carbon Emissions

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what funding he has allocated for the purposes of reducing carbon dioxide emissions from deforestation and degradation. [260023]

Joan Ruddock: In advance of internationally agreed mechanisms, it is necessary to test approaches and build capacity in developing countries. At the climate change negotiations in Poznan last December the UK announced up to £100 million from the International Window of the Environmental Transformation Fund to support such work.

This is in addition to a £15 million contribution to the World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility which assists developing countries in working out how they can participate in and benefit from evolving incentive mechanisms for avoided deforestation. The UK has also committed £60 million to help reduce deforestation and poverty in the Congo Basin. The Congo Basin Forest Fund, launched in June 2008, will support transformative and innovative proposals from the countries of the Congo Basin and civil society to slow the rate of deforestation.

In addition, smaller sums of money have been committed from the budgets of DECC, DEFRA, DFID and the FCO.

Departmental Buildings

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will place in the Library a copy of the *(a)* display energy certificates and *(b)* advisory reports for public buildings issued in respect of each property occupied by (i) his Department and (ii) its agencies. [256047]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I have today placed in the Library a copy of the display energy certificate and advisory report for the Department's London headquarters in 3 Whitehall Place. The DECC offices in Atholl House are not covered by the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspection) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 since they are in Scotland, and therefore do not have a display energy certificate or advisory report. DECC has no executive agencies.

Departmental Databases

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what databases are *(a)* held and *(b)* maintained by his Department. [255965]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: It is not possible to answer this question without incurring disproportionate costs. DECC owns and maintains a wide range of databases reflecting its diverse policy and regulatory functions. Some of these databases contain large numbers of individual datasets. A detailed list could be provided only at disproportionate cost to the Department.

Departmental Information Officers

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many press officers are employed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies. [256061]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is as follows:

(a) Six.

(b) None.

Departmental Public Consultation

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what public consultations his Department *(a)* is planning to undertake and *(b)* is undertaking; and when each such consultation is expected to end. [262139]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 11 March 2009]:* DECC is currently undertaking the following consultations:

Consultation	*Start date*	*Closes*	*Intended date of response*
The Environmental Permitting Regulations, Phase 2 (EPP2)	16 February 2009	18 May 2009	15 September 2009
Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP)	12 February 2009	8 May 2009	Summer 2009
Heat and Energy Saving Strategy Consultation	12 February 2009	8 May 2009	End of 2009.
Proposed amendments to the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target 2008-11	12 February 2009	14 April 2009	Summer 2009
The Severn Tidal Power Feasibility Study	26 January 2009	23 April 2009	To be announced in due course
Offshore Energy SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Environmental Report	26 January 2009	22 April 2009	To be announced in due course
Proposed Offshore Gas Storage and Gas Unloading Licensing Scheme	12 February 2009	23 April 2009	To be announced in due course
The Justification of Practices involving Ionising Radiation Regulations 2004: Consultation on the Nuclear Industry Association's Application to Justify New Nuclear Power Stations	17 December 2008	25 March 2009	A draft decision document, containing responses to this current consultation, is provisionally intended to be published in September 2009. This itself is subject to consultation and the final Justification decision is not expected to be made until January
Consultation on offshore electricity transmission: a further joint Ofgem/ DECC regulatory policy update	November 20 2008	9 January 2009	Spring 2009
Carbon units, the net UK carbon account and carbon accounting (under the Climate Change Act)	28 October 2008	19 January 2009	Alongside laying of carbon accounting Statutory Instrument at fiscal Budget 2009

DECC is planning to undertake the following consultations:

A pre-consultation on nuclear waste and decommissioning fixed unit price. This is likely to start in the next few weeks. There will be a formal consultation on this point later in the spring.

A final consultation on the offshore transmission licensing regime. This is likely to start by end of this month

Consultation on a strategy for Low Level Radioactive Waste from the non-nuclear industry (e.g. hospitals, educational establishments etc). This is likely to start in late April or in May and end 12 weeks later.

Consultation on Revised Exemption Orders under the Radioactive Substances Act 1993. This likely to start in June and end in September.

Consultations for the Renewables Obligation, Renewable Heat Incentive and Feed-in Tariffs are planned for this summer.

Consultation on energy National Policy Statements to be produced under the Planning Act 2008. Expected to end in second half of 2009.

Consultation on desirability of allowing local authorities to sell electricity generated otherwise than in association with heat and possible consequent legislative changes. Likely end date autumn 2009.

Consultation on changes to the electricity licence exemption order. Likely end date autumn 2009.

A further public consultation on Severn tidal power. Likely to be in 2010.

Consultation on a new framework for coal fired power stations, timing unknown.

Consultation on the term 'carbon neutral': its definition and recommendations for good practice. 26 February to 21 May 2009.

Consultation on first stage Transposition of EU Directive (EC/2008/101) to include Aviation in the European Union Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS). A joint consultation with the Department for Transport. End date 14 May 2009.

Second stage Transposition of EU Directive (EC/2008/101) to include Aviation in the European Union Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS). A joint consultation with the Department for Transport. Likely to end in autumn 2009.

Transposition of revisions to the European Union Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) for post-2012. Likely to end in summer 2009.

Consultation on the Form and Content of New Climate Change Agreements. 12 March-4 June 2009.

Consultation on the Draft Order to implement the Carbon Reduction Commitment. 12 March - 4 June 2009.

Note:

Dates have not been finalised for some of these consultations, therefore end dates have not yet been set in these cases.

Energy Saving Trust: Public Relations

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what payments the Energy Saving Trust has made to *(a)* Positif Politics Ltd., *(b)* Strategem, *(c)* Weber Shandwick Public Affairs and *(d)* Consolidated Communications in each of the last five years; and on what date and for what purpose the payment was made in each case. [255940]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Energy Saving Trust is a private company limited by guarantee, and details of payments made are therefore a matter for the trust's board.

The Department has been informed that the Energy Saving Trust has made payments to each of the companies listed within the last five years for public relations activities such as energy efficiency campaigns and public affairs.

Energy: Supply

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking with his EU counterparts to ensure energy interconnection between countries. [255202]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The EU's third energy package, which is expected to be adopted mid-year, should improve the regulatory, legal and technical framework needed to promote interconnection. It includes a duty on national regulators to support the development of cross-border transmission capacity to enhance the integration of national markets and an obligation on the European Transmission System Operators to develop an EU-wide network development plan identifying the need for further interconnection. The UK is also actively engaged with the European Commission and other member states on action arising from the second EU Strategic Energy Review (SEER2) and its related Green Paper on energy networks of November 2008. SEER2 highlights the need for improved interconnection both within the EU, especially for member states on the EU's periphery, and into the EU from third countries. The UK will provide a formal response to the Commission on the Paper before the end of March 2009.

Environment Protection: Technology

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of economic recovery stimulus packages are being utilised for environmentally-friendly technologies in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [262988]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

At the pre-Budget report (PBR), the Government announced £3 billion of capital spending stimulus, including a £535 million green stimulus to support low carbon growth and jobs, while still meeting ambitious long-term goals. This green stimulus supports programmes such as Warm Front and Decent Homes that include the installation of thermal insulation and efficient heating technologies, to save energy and cut CO_2 emissions.

PBR's green stimulus included £100 million of new funding for Warm Front, on top of £50 million brought forward to support the economy. This will reduce CO_2 emissions and help around 60,000 low-income households cut their energy use through insulation and improved heating systems. For 2008-09, £50 million of the new stimulus funding was added to existing Warm Front funding for the year of £345 million. From 1 April 2008 to 25 January 2009, over £346 million had been spent on Warm Front, with 6 per cent. of households assisted located in the North East region.

In PBR the Government also announced additional brought forward expenditure to sustain and accelerate the Decent Homes programme in 2009-10. Significant elements of this will support expenditure above existing

national budgets provided to schemes previously identified by partners in the ALMO and transfer programmes. Additional brought forward capital, up to a maximum total value of £100 million, will be available to ALMOs in 2009-10 and the HCA has written to ALMO chief executives on the process for accessing this. A proportion of this spending will go towards energy efficiency and heating technologies, although we are unable to identify funding for this separately.

International Renewable Energy Agency

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1001W, on the International Renewable Energy Agency, for what reason the Government have not joined the International Renewable Energy Agency. [257796]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We have fully supported the proposal for an International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). During 2008, we participated in the process for establishing the IRENA and we have also participated at the Founding Conference on 26 January and the first session of the Preparatory Commission of IRENA on 27 January 2009.

We have been very keen on joining and have been in close contact with the German Government on the details of the new organisation. For example, we have been talking to Germany about how IRENA can contribute to the roll-out and deployment of renewables and how we can help to get other countries such as Canada, China, Japan, India and the US to join. We are also talking about how we can make sure that IRENA works closely with, and avoids overlap and duplication with, other international bodies and organisations, such as the International Energy Agency (IEA) and the renewable energy and energy efficiency partnership (REEEP). The IEA has a good understanding of the potential for renewable energy and its technology roadmaps published in its Energy Technologies Perspectives 2008 set out what needs to be done. The policy and analytical expertise of the IEA needs to be used by IRENA to accelerate deployment of renewable sources of energy.

These are the main issues that we have under consideration, but we have not finalised a timetable by which we intend to join.

Lord Truscott

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on what dates *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have met Lord Truscott since the creation of his Depart[illegible] [256944]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 25 February 2009]:* Ministers in this Department have not met with Lord Truscott.

Warm Front Scheme

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many boilers installed under the Warm Front scheme in *(a)* Birkenhead constituency and *(b)* nationally have required repair on (i) one, (ii) two, (iii) three and (iv) four or more occasions. [258574]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 25 February 2009]:* The Warm Front scheme offers a comprehensive aftercare provision with cover for parts and labour under all installed gas central heating systems for two years. September 2007 is the earliest date for which this information is available. In the time period 1 September 2007 to January 31 2009, the following data show system repairs (including although not exclusively pertaining to boiler repairs) in Birkenhead and England respectively:

(a) Birkenhead—1,948 properties were covered by the aftercare provision in the period, of which 656 properties required one or more visits

	Number
1 visit	456
2 visits	145
3 visits	38
>4 visits	17
Total	656

(b) England—352,000 properties were covered by the aftercare provision of which 90,145 properties required one or more visits

	Number
1 visit	63,384
2 visits	18,643
3 visits	2,564
>4 visits	2,554
Total	90,145

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Departmental Detergents

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make it his policy to ensure that no cleaning products or ingredients of cleaning products used by his Department have been tested on animals. [261127]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office policy in relation to cleaning products or ingredients of cleaning products is to avoid animal testing at all costs unless it is mandated by legal requirement. Products tested on animals would be used only within the definition of the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemical substances (REACh) set up to protect human health and the environment.

Group Of Twenty: London Summit

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost of *(a)* hiring conference facilities and *(b)* the media centre for the G20 Summit to be held in London on 2 April 2009. [258885]

Gillian Merron: The financial crisis of autumn 2008, affecting banking systems, is now a global economic crisis, impacting upon jobs and livelihoods. No one country can resolve this crisis alone. International co-operation and the London G20 Summit is essential as it will bring together leaders of the world's major economies and key international institutions.

With the global economic situation continuing to deteriorate our goal for the London G20 Summit is for leaders to: take whatever action is necessary to stabilise financial markets and enable families and business to get through the recession; reform and strengthen the global financial and economic system to restore confidence and trust; and put the global economy on track for sustainable growth.

The London G20 Summit at the Excel Centre in east London, which will hold both the conference and a media centre, is therefore vitally important on the global stage. The current estimate of £1.1 million for the space required should be considered in this context.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was paid to farmers in each region of England in *(a)* single farm payments, *(b)* protein crop premium and *(c)* energy aid in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007 and (iv) 2008. [260343]

Jane Kennedy: The data required to provide payment information for these schemes by region are not held in a form that is easily accessible and cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on set-aside; and what timetable he has set to introduce changes to the existing arrangements. [262986]

Jane Kennedy: As I said in my reply to the hon. Member on 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1216W, the UK supported abolishing set-aside in the CAP 'Health Check', but made it clear that adequate measures were needed to mitigate adverse environmental consequences. We were successful in achieving a new legal basis which allows member states to use cross-compliance for this purpose.

On 4 March 2009 DEFRA launched a 12-week public consultation on proposed changes to cross-compliance, including recapturing the environmental benefits of set-aside. The consultation ends on 27 May and Ministers will be considering these responses before making a decision. It is anticipated that any measures, would be introduced from 2010 onwards.

Angling: Licensing

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many applications for rod licences from people in each age group were refused in each of the last five years, and for what reasons. [263584]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Anyone over the age of 12 who wishes to fish for freshwater fish and eels in England, Wales or the Border Esk region of Scotland requires a rod licence to fish with a rod and line. The Environment Agency do not refuse rod licences.

Beekeeping

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps *(a)* to promote beekeeping and *(b)* encourage existing beekeepers to remain in the sector; and if he will make a statement. [262294]

Jane Kennedy: The National Bee Unit (NBU) provides a free comprehensive training and education programme for all beekeepers to enable them to develop their skills and become more self-reliant in combating disease problems through improved bee husbandry. In 2008, beekeepers in England benefited from nearly 23,000 colony inspections and an extensive programme of training, including over 800 technical events to date, delivered by the NBU to help improve disease control through good apiary management. Implementation of 'Healthy Bees', a 10-year plan to protect and improve the health of honey bees in England and Wales, will help beekeepers develop their skills and thus continue beekeeping.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many active beekeepers were registered on the National Bee Unit database at the latest date for which figures are available. [263073]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 12 March 2009]:* As of 10 March 2009, there were 17,423 active beekeepers registered on the National Bee Unit's Beebase database.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State recently announced additional funding of £4.3 million for bee health which includes supporting the implementation of the initial phase of a 10-year plan to improve and protect the health of honey bees in England and Wales. One aim is to gain a more accurate picture of the numbers and distribution of beekeepers and the status of the health of their colonies and increase significantly the proportion of beekeepers registered on Beebase.

The additional funding allocation also includes £0.4 million per annum for five years which will be contributed to a wider research programme on pollinator decline.

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate his Department has made of the number of beekeepers. [263074]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 12 March 2009]:* An economic evaluation of bee health carried out by ADAS Consulting Ltd. in 2001 estimated that there were approximately 33,000 beekeepers and 230,000 colonies of bees in England. The Secretary of State recently announced additional funding of £4.3 million for bee health which includes supporting the implementation of the initial phase of a 10-year plan to improve and protect the health of honey bees in England and Wales. One aim is to gain a more accurate picture of the numbers and distribution of beekeepers and the status of the health of their colonies.

The additional funding allocation also includes £0.4 million per annum for five years which will be contributed to a wider research programme on pollinator decline.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to ensure early take-up by farmers of tests for bovine tuberculosis. [262987]

Jane Kennedy: Responsibility for ensuring that legally required bovine tuberculosis (TB) tests are completed on time rests with cattle owners. However, Animal Health gives every cattle owner advance notification of the two to three-month period in which their test must be completed. These notification letters also make it clear that herd movement restrictions will be applied immediately a test becomes overdue. This provides motivation for herd owners to get tests completed on time, and reduces the risk of disease spread from herds with an unknown TB status. Veterinary practices are also advised of the test due dates for their clients' herds.

However, a significant number of TB tests are still not completed in the required timeframe. To help reduce this number, Animal Health is developing new, more robust enforcement protocols.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to expedite the collection of cattle infected with tuberculosis. [263120]

Jane Kennedy: Government recognise the importance attached to removing infected animals from farms as quickly as possible. Within England, Animal Health is meeting its current target of removing 90 per cent. of TB reactors within 20 working days. As at the end of December 2008 91.4 per cent. (18,102) of the reactors taken in England since 1 April 2008 had been removed within 20 days.

From 1 April 2009 the Animal Health target will be tightened further to 10 working days. This is a challenging target, one which Animal Health will only be able to meet if it has full co-operation from farmers and vets.

Compost

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of the entry into administration of Bioganix on *(a)* present and *(b)* planned in-vessel composting facilities. [263089]

Jane Kennedy: Information received from the DEFRA-funded Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) indicates that the former Bioganix site at Sharpness Docks in Gloucestershire was recently purchased from the administrators for an undisclosed sum by New Earth Solutions, which has announced that the site will continue in operation under the new ownership.

WRAP provides ongoing support to compost producers specifically through its Programme Support Managers and to all recycling and reprocessing business through its Regional Business Advisors and Business and Markets team (who have links to the investor community).

Departmental Absenteeism

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many members of staff from his Department missed at least *(a)* 30, *(b)* 50 and *(c)* 99 days of work through illness in each of the last five years. [262847]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 11 March 2009]:* The number of DEFRA staff who have missed at least 30, 50 and 99 days of work through illness in the core Department is set out in the following table:

	Number of staff		
Total working days absent in year	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
30 to 49	80	83	90
50 to 98	72	66	41
99+	49	35	29

Record-keeping practices vary across DEFRA's agencies and analysing the data by the categories requested would incur disproportionate cost. Data prior to 2006 are not available in the form requested.

DEFRA has a policy for managing long-term sickness absence for its employees by facilitating timely employee access to occupational health and medical or well-being advice. Individuals are also encouraged to return to work through the use of occupational health expertise that enables them to undertake a structured programme of recuperative duties, helping them to return to full working hours as quickly as possible. All staff have a return to work interview with their manager.

Departmental Data Protection

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what auditing his Department undertakes to ensure that IT security policies are being followed; and on how many occasions *(a)* IT security policies have been breached by employees and *(b)* a member of staff has been sanctioned for a breach of such policies in the last 12 months. [259722]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Compliance arrangements comprise a system of self-assessment, accreditation, assurance reporting, audit and review. The Department undertakes a variety of audit activity and takes action when it is clear that its IT security policies need to be updated. However, for security reasons, it would not be appropriate to provide details of the audit functions undertaken.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's IT security hierarchy. [259723]

Huw Irranca-Davies: It is not in the interest of the security of the Department, or that of the public, to place in the Library a copy of detailed information pertaining to the security of the Department's IT systems. Disclosing such information could assist criminals and those who would attempt to cause disruptive threats to the Department.

Departmental Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on staff surveys in each of the last five years; and which companies were contracted to carry out the surveys. [260144]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Department commissioned ORC International Ltd to run staff surveys in 2005, 2007 and 2008. The Department is currently participating with 10 other Departments in a pilot Civil Service Employee Engagement Survey which is also being run by ORC International Ltd.

Approximately £89,000 was spent in 2007-08, and approximately £31,000 has been spent or identified for spend in 2008-09 to date. It is not possible to identify expenditure in previous years.

The first full Civil Service Employee Engagement Survey, covering over half a million civil servants, is planned for autumn 2009, and it is expected that this will deliver an overall saving for the Exchequer compared with the costs of Departments carrying out surveys unilaterally.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on staff surveys in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008; and which companies were contracted to carry out surveys. [263606]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Department commissioned ORC International Ltd. to run staff surveys in 2007 and 2008. The Department is currently participating with 10 other Departments in a pilot Civil Service Employee Engagement Survey which is also being run by ORC International Ltd.

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Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which beacon councils have been nominated for recognition of best practice in waste collection in the last 24 months. [262513]

Jane Kennedy: The beacon councils scheme is run by the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA). Councils apply for beacon status; they are not nominated. The waste theme was run in 'IDeA round seven' and beacon status for March 2006 to July 2007 was awarded to 10 councils.

The requested information on successful councils can be found at:

http://www.beacons.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/pages.do?pageId=5148251

Farmers: Income

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average farm income was in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [261355]

Jane Kennedy: Information on the average farm business income and net farm income in England, since 1997 is shown in the table.

£

March to February each year	Average farm business income (per farm)	Average net farm income (per farm)
1997-98	n/a	15,200
1998-99	n/a	11,500
1999-2000	n/a	8,700
2000-01	n/a	10,600
2001-02	n/a	14,900
2002-03	n/a	16,600
2003-04	36,800	29,500
2004-05	28,300	21,200
2005-06	28,800	21,100
2006-07	34,400	26,700
2007-08	48,100	38,600

Notes:

1. Farm business income is the headline measure of the profitability of farm businesses. It represents the financial return to all unpaid labour (farmers and spouses, non-principal partners and directors and their spouses and family workers) and on all their capital invested in the farm business, including land and buildings. It is not available for years before 2003-04 given the way that data were recorded in earlier years.

Source:

Farm Business Survey[1]

[1] The FBS sample covers businesses with a Standard Labour Requirement (SLR) of at least 0.3, i.e. a size considered sufficient to occupy a farmer for at least half their time.

Net farm income is defined as the return to the principal farmer and spouse for their manual and managerial labour and on the tenant type capital of the business. It is net of an imputed rental charge on owned land and an imputed charge for other unpaid labour.

Fisheries

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many deep sea fishermen there are in England. [263583]

Huw Irranca-Davies: There is no precise definition of what constitutes a deep sea fisherman, although vessels over 24 metres in length have the capability to fish in such waters. In 2007, there were 104 active English fishing vessels over 24 metres in length with 1,003 full-time and nine part-time fishermen.

Fisheries: Essex

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many fisheries officers were based in each principal town in Essex in each of the last three years. [263597]

Huw Irranca-Davies: There has been one fishery officer in Essex, based in Harwich, in each of the last three years.

Fisheries: International Cooperation

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to

the answer of 9 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 732W, on fisheries: international co-operation, what experience officials have had of the committee to date. [264045]

Huw Irranca-Davies: UK officials have attended these meetings and have found them a useful forum to discuss potential difficulties and agree practical solutions.

Fisheries: Pollution Control

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's policy on minimising pollution from line fishing. [263586]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency (EA) has published a Research and Development report entitled 'The Impact of Lost and Discarded Fishing Line and Tackle on Mute Swans' (2002). This showed that around 30 per cent. of all reported swan incidents could be attributed to fishing tackle related injuries. However, between 1996-99 only 3.6 per cent. of swan rescues could be attributed to lead poisoning nationally, a significant decline since the restriction of lead weights was introduced in 1987.

The EA works to maintain public awareness of the legislation and promote responsible techniques in angling to avoid lead and line loss to the environment.

Floods: Canvey Island

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward the timetable for consultation of Canvey residents on plans to flood the west of Canvey Island. [263482]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Thames Estuary 2100 plan considers flood risk management and habitat creation proposals for the whole Thames estuary. It will be released for consultation by the Environment Agency on the 31 March 2009. West Canvey Marshes is one site in the plan and needs to be best considered as part of the wider estuary consultation.

Floods: Greater London

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many flood risk management projects *(a)* in Greater London and *(b)* on the Essex coastline his Department has identified for implementation. [263588]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency's Thames estuary 2100 strategic tidal flood risk management plan for the Thames estuary will show what actions are needed to manage flood risk through to the end of the century.

In the Greater London area there are a total of 51 capital flood risk management schemes ongoing or planned to start within the next five years ranging in value from £100,000 to £11.4 million and significantly reducing flood risk to over 72,000 properties.

The major capital schemes taking place in London are:

Thames Barrier and Associated Gates Improvements

Bermondsey and Deptford—Deptford Creek Tidal Frontages

Barking and Dagenham—Tidal Sluice and Pumping Stations

Salmons Brook Flood Alleviation Scheme (Enfield)

Cobbins Brook Flood Alleviation Scheme (Waltham Abbey)

The Environment Agency has a number of flood risk management projects that are at varying stages of implementation on the Essex coast. One scheme that has just been completed is at Jaywick which cost £10 million.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what flood prevention plans are being implemented around the Isle of Dogs. [263589]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency is producing a strategic tidal flood risk management plan for the Thames estuary through to the end of the century—called Thames Estuary 2100. This includes the future management of the Isle of Dogs tidal defences and the Thames Barrier which provide protection to the area.

The Environment Agency has worked to raise awareness of tidal flood risk in the Isle of Dogs and presentations have been provided to members of the business community in Canary Wharf. A flood exercise has been developed for the Financial Services Authority based on a breach in the Canary Wharf area to test emergency plans.

Discussions on tidal flood risk and its impacts on transport in the area have been held with Transport for London, London Underground and Docklands Light Railway, and members of the community have signed up to receive the Environment Agency flood warning service.

Floods: Havering

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans his Department has to examine flood prevention measures along the River Rom in the London Borough of Havering. [263590]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency will continue to carry out routine maintenance on main rivers in the River Rom catchment to reduce the risk of flooding. Dredging work has recently been carried out on the section of the River Rom downstream of Roneo Corner, Rush Green in Romford.

The Cross Road flood storage area at Collier Row, Romford will continue to be maintained providing upstream attenuation of peak flood flows. This flood storage facility alleviates the risk of flooding to properties within the west Romford area downstream of Collier Row.

The Environment Agency is also implementing several improvement measures which will be carried out to the Cross Road flood storage area during 2010 and 2011 at an estimated overall cost of £620,000. This is to ensure that the current standard of flood alleviation is maintained for the downstream area.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans his Department has to fund maintenance of the River Rom in the London Borough of Havering. [263591]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The River Rom is a high risk system and in 2008-09 the Environment Agency carried out planned maintenance work. The Environment Agency plans to spend £40,000 in 2009-10 on further channel and asset maintenance.

Fly Tipping

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* successful prosecutions there were for fly-tipping in each local authority in each of the last five years for which figures are available; [261004]

(2) how many incidents of fly-tipping were reported in each local authority in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and what the estimated cost was of dealing with such incidents. [261054]

Jane Kennedy: I am arranging for the data requested to be placed in the Library of the House.

Data on the number of incidents of fly-tipping and the number of prosecutions taken by local authorities against fly-tippers are currently available for the last four years only.

DEFRA's Flycapture system started collecting data on the number of incidents cleared and enforcement actions taken by local authorities in 2004.

The estimated cost of clearing fly-tipped waste shown in these tables does not necessarily reflect the cost to the taxpayer as some authorities have structured their service contracts to include the cost of clearing fly-tipped waste.

Prosecution is only one of a number of enforcement actions that local authorities can use against fly-tippers. Warning letters, statutory notices, formal cautions and injunctions are also used where appropriate.

Food

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has had recent discussions with ministerial colleagues in the Department of Health on food security and public health. [263900]

Jane Kennedy: Following the machinery of government changes in October 2008, DEFRA has taken the lead in co-ordinating food policy across Government. As part of that we have introduced a new departmental strategic objective to ensure a sustainable, secure and healthy food supply. I regularly discuss food and health matters with ministerial colleagues—the new ministerial sub-committee on food (DA(F)) is another vital vehicle for this—and officials from DEFRA, the Department of Health, and other Departments are working together towards achieving objectives that we share on food.

Food: Waste Disposal

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his most recent estimate is of the proportion of food waste which is organically produced. [263911]

Jane Kennedy: The DEFRA-funded Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) undertook research in 2007 to quantify the amounts and types of household food waste produced in the UK. According to its report "The Food We Waste", UK households waste 6.7 million tonnes of food every year: around one third of the 21.7 million tonnes we purchase.

No data were obtained to ascertain how much of that food was organically produced.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Maize

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the Government's policy is on the early planting of MON 810 maize. [262985]

Huw Irranca-Davies: MON 810 was authorised for cultivation in 1998 under directive 90/220/EEC and has been grown in Spain, Portugal, France, Germany, Slovakia, Poland, Romania and the Czech Republic. While UK farmers are able to plant MON 810, the seed is not being marketed here.

A farmer in Wales has claimed to have grown some MON 810 maize. However, it is not expected that MON 810 will be grown on a normal commercial basis in the UK. This maize is designed to be resistant to an insect pest, the European corn borer, which is not present in the UK, and the GM trait has been bred into maize varieties not suitable for UK conditions.

Horses: Transport

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many horse passports have been issued by each of the issuing bodies in each of the last five years. [259505]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is shown in the following table. These figures have been supplied by the National Equine Database, which only began collecting this information in 2006. We cannot provide exact data for previous years.

Passports issued

	Year of issue					
PIO name	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*Unknown*	*Grand total*
American Miniature Horse Club	14	14	—	—	—	65
American Quarter Horse Association UK	81	132	163	16	2	1,161
American Saddlebred Association of Great Britain	22	7	8	—	—	58
Anglo-European Studbook Ltd.	1,522	1,822	696	—	4	6,824

Passports issued

PIO name	Year of issue 2006	2007	2008	2009	Unknown	Grand total
Appaloosa Horse Club (ApHc) UK Ltd.	47	—	—	—	—	370
Arab Horse Society	1,253	1,833	1,411	—	—	14,278
British Appaloosa Society	725	280	301	67	7	1,657
British Association for the Purebred Spanish Horse Ltd.	216	142	67	1	440	1,548
British Bavarian Warmblood Association	—	—	—	—	—	76
British Carmargue Horse Society	13	8	5	—	—	71
British Connemara Pony Society	532	428	338	21	342	4,109
British Driving Society	1,724	372	—	—	5	2,787
British Equestrian Federation	328	344	—	—	2,742	3,419
British Falabella Studbook	28	11	48	9	—	159
British Hanoverian Horse Society	190	174	70	—	—	990
British Harness Racing Club	5	—	—	—	—	195
British Horse Database	2	—	3	—	—	1,439
British Horse Society	929	619	478	25	6	22,333
British Morgan Horse Society	49	36	38	—	28	346
British Palomino Society	25	125	123	—	3	443
British Percheron Horse Society	34	97	21	—	11	778
British Show Horse Association	—	33	45	2	—	82
British Show Jumping Association	700	427	272	—	—	6,775
British Skewbald and Piebald Association	653	575	250	—	—	3,306
Caspian Breed Society (UK)	—	1	—	—	—	1
Caspian Horse Society	17	10	—	—	2	79
Cleveland Bay Horse Society	121	137	142	—	840	1,240
Clydesdale Horse Society	102	191	257	50	1	797
Coloured Horse and Pony Society (UK)	485	1,025	930	95	7	3,136
Dales Pony Society	182	173	143	—	1,065	2,057
Dartmoor Pony Society	1,038	1,436	1,723	56	327	8,288
Donkey Breed Society	1,034	745	356	71	81	12,824
Eriskay Pony (Mother Society): Comann Each nan Eilean Ltd.	1	—	6	—	—	84
Eriskay Pony Society	28	16	12	—	35	284
Exmoor Pony Society	263	343	243	58	330	2,565
Farmkey	1,768	979	574	19	—	21,914
Fell Pony Society	363	483	474	32	15	3,006
Fjord Horse National Stud-book Association of Great Britain	—	—	—	—	93	102
Fjord Horse Studbook Society	5	—	—	—	10	83
Gypsy Cob Society	282	1,289	2,535	—	454	4,508
Hackney Horse Society	113	170	91	16	—	512
Highland Pony Society	10	363	476	67	1	975
Horse Passport Agency Ltd.	13,900	10,429	8,534	634	3,893	145,678
Horse Passports Ltd.	1,597	1,093	439	—	18	5,234
Hurlingham Polo Association	1,339	1,528	96	—	737	9,989
Icelandic Horse Society of Great Britain	30	23	22	2	27	110
International Miniature Horse and Pony Society	420	662	814	4	—	1,906
Irish Draught Horse Society (GB)	241	261	164	—	17	1,103
Lipizzaner National Studbook Association of Great Britain	148	198	75	—	22	1,196
Lipizzaner Society of Great Britain	—	9	2	—	—	47
Lusitano Breed Society (Great Britain)	38	32	25	—	25	155
National Pony Society	976	589	621	91	4,073	8,505
New Forest Pony Breeding and Cattle Society	2,178	1,990	1,968	76	28	15,773
Northern Ireland Horse Board Co-op Society Ltd.	1,462	1,605	1,680	—	45	8,058
Oakdales (NI) Ltd.	—	137	48	—	—	185
Pet-ID UK Ltd.	9,079	9,091	8,950	532	1,415	90,338
Pleasure Horse Society	1,513	1,089	1,002	51	—	36,298
Scottish Sports Horse	299	111	360	14	36	2,272
Selle Francais EquiCours	2	—	—	—	—	43
Shetland Pony Stud-Book Society	3,890	3,830	4,136	10	27	13,901
Shire Horse Society	46	19	13	—	3,053	3,288
Show Jumping Association of Ireland: Ulster Rayon	79	166	155	41	1	442
Sport Horse Breeding of Great Britain	2,703	2,460	2,241	309	998	19,330
Sport Pony Studbook Society	21	3	—	—	20	449
Spotted Horse and Pony Society	33	—	—	—	—	34
Spotted Pony Breed Society (Great Britain)	89	—	—	—	—	406

	Passports issued					
	Year of issue					
PIO name	2006	2007	2008	2009	Unknown	Grand total
Standard and Trotting Horse Association of Great Britain and Ireland	820	401	530	—	—	4,255
Suffolk Horse Society	40	30	—	—	40	489
Trakehners UK	122	119	60	—	113	920
United Saddlebred Association UK Ltd.	17	19	10	—	36	513
Veteran Horse Society	1,766	1,013	654	—	1	19,076
Warmblood Breeders Studbook UK	250	13	—	—	141	612
Weatherbys	20,625	22,857	22,227	198	47,850	153,511
Weatherbys ID Passports	2,998	2,324	1,843	113	—	54,547
Welsh Pony and Cob Society	10,810	8,804	11,373	1,444	45,131	100,500
Grand total	92,012	85,661	80,327	4,124	114,598	834,978

Livestock: Exports

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* unweaned calves, *(b)* cattle, *(c)* sheep and *(d)* other livestock species were exported from the UK for (i) further fattening and (ii) slaughter in 2008. [261520]

Jane Kennedy: Data collected from the EU Commission's Trade Control Expert System (TRACES) indicate that the following numbers of live cattle, sheep, goats and pigs were certified by official veterinarians as meeting the intra-Community trade rules for dispatch from the United Kingdom to other EU member states for either further fattening or slaughter during 2008:

	Number of animals certified for		
Livestock type	Fattening	Slaughter	Total
Cattle	84,484	17,597	102,081
Sheep	58,416	256,447	314,863
Goats	4	1	5
Pigs	2710	26,001	28,711
Total	143,614	300,046	443,660

Information on whether any of these animals were unweaned at the time of dispatch is not captured on TRACES, therefore these data are not available.

The number of animals certified for export from the United Kingdom to countries outside of the EU is not recorded centrally, meaning that it is not possible to provide these data.

Nature Conservation

Ms Angela C. Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to support investment in upland management in respect of water quality and wildlife. [263640]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Within DEFRA's agri-environment schemes—Environmental Stewardship and the predecessor schemes, Countryside Stewardship and Environmentally Sensitive Areas—funding is available for environmental management in the uplands which will contribute to improving water quality and biodiversity. This includes, for instance, the management of moorland, upland rough grazing, grip blocking, moorland re-wetting, heather management restoration and maintenance of upland dry stone walls.

The Secretary of State has also recently announced the introduction of a new uplands strand of Environmental Stewardship (Uplands ELS) in 2010, to replace the Hill Farm Allowance. The objective of Uplands ELS includes maintaining and improving the biodiversity and water quality in England's uplands, by supporting the land management practices which deliver these benefits. Funding for Uplands ELS is expected to be around £25 million per year.

The England Catchment Sensitive Farming Delivery Initiative (ECSFDI) aims to help farmers to reduce diffuse pollution from agricultural land through both advice and grants. The ECSFDI is delivered in 50 priority catchments including a number of catchments in England's uplands. DEFRA is providing funding of £12.9 million for the ECSFDI in 2009-10 of which £5 million is available for capital grants. These grants are for the improvement or installation of facilities that would benefit water quality by reducing diffuse pollution.

Pesticides

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to conduct a consultation on the list of ingredients of pesticides to be proscribed under section 43 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. [262902]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Secretary of State may not make an order under section 43 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 unless he is satisfied that it is necessary or expedient to do so. We will be further assessing the need for such an order in the light of the findings of a pre-consultation exercise undertaken last year and will then determine what the next steps should be. A wider consultation may take place later this year.

Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 47-48WS, on Government infrastructure investment, whether any private finance initiative schemes relating to waste management are subject to *(a)* cancellation, *(b)* postponement or *(c)* renegotiation. [262886]

Jane Kennedy: Following the recent announcement by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, my right hon. Friend the Member for Pontefract and Castleford (Yvette Cooper) on Government infrastructure investment, no decisions have been made on private finance initiative (PFI) waste management schemes. Therefore at this time, none is subject to cancellation, postponement or renegotiation.

However, any PFI deal in the procurement process could be subject to cancellation, postponement and renegotiation for any number of other commercial reasons.

I can confirm that there are currently 19 PFI waste projects in procurement, with a further 11 currently in the application process for PFI credits which have not yet been granted approval by the Treasury.

Recycling: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research has been *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* evaluated into carbon dioxide emissions from recycling and transporting recyclable waste by (i) his Department, (ii) the Waste and Resources Action Programme, (iii) the Environment Agency and (iv) the Carbon Trust. [262618]

Jane Kennedy: As part of DEFRA's Waste and Resources Evidence Programme, we have undertaken the project 'Carbon Balances and Energy Impacts of the Management of UK Waste Streams' (WR0602), and evaluated it through peer review. An additional project, 'Greenhouse Gas Impacts of Biowaste Management' (WR0210), is in the final stages of completion following peer reviewers' comments.

The DEFRA-funded Waste and Resources Programme (WRAP) has carried out a range of studies in this area which are available on its website:

WRAP (2006) Environmental Benefits of Recycling;

WRAP (2008) Life Cycle Assessment of Mixed Waste Plastic Management Options;

WRAP (2008) Life Cycle Assessment of Plasterboard;

WRAP (2008) CO_2 Impacts of Transporting the UK's Recovered Paper and Plastic Bottles to China.

WRAP's research has found that for most materials, the emissions from transportation are far outweighed by the savings from processes avoided by recycling. This is true even when exporting materials to the far east.

The Environment Agency carried out research into emissions from recycling plant and fuel consumption for collecting waste in relation to its life cycle software, Waste and Resource Assessment Tool for the Environment (WRATE), which uses the data to estimate the carbon dioxide equivalent emissions from different waste management systems.

The Carbon Trust, in association with DEFRA, has co-sponsored the development of PAS (Publicly Available Specification) 2050—specification for the assessment of greenhouse gas emissions of goods and services—through the British Standards Institution. This specification details a method for the assessment of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases arising from all processes in the supply chain of goods and services, which includes recycling and the transport activities. Through its application, businesses can understand the carbon impact of their products and ultimately follow this up with tangible ways to cut carbon emissions across the supply chain.

As part of the development and implementation of PAS 2050, the Carbon Trust has carried out research into the different methods used to measure these emissions, and sought to understand different stakeholder views of these methods; however, the Carbon Trust has not undertaken or evaluated specific research into the CO_2 emissions from recycling and transportation of recyclable waste. Following the publication of PAS 2050, the Carbon Label Company has carried out further research into different methods of measuring emissions from recycling and transportation of recyclable waste to support its implementation.

Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many agricultural workers entered the UK under the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme in each of the last three years; what estimate he has made of the number who will do so in 2009; and if he will make a statement. [263905]

Mr. Woolas: I have been asked to reply.

The number of agricultural workers who entered the UK under the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Scheme (SAWS) in the last three years is as follows:

	Number
2006	16,244
2007	16,250
2008	16,250

This is against an agreed quota for each year of 16,250.

On the recommendation of the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) the quota for 2009 has been increased to 21,250. There is expected to be a full uptake of this quota.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Shellfish

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information his Department has collected on the *(a)* volume, *(b)* monetary value and *(c)* port of catch of (i) brown crabs, (ii) velvet crabs, (iii) lobsters, (iv) creel-caught langoustine, (v) whelks, (vi) squat lobsters, (vii) diver-caught or -gathered razor clams and (viii) diver-caught or -gathered king scallops in Scotland in each calendar quarter since 2006. [263531]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The information requested is collected by the Scottish Government and is made available to the Marine and Fisheries Agency through the UK data warehouse, IFISH. The data requested are available for the years 2006 and 2007 and have been placed in the Library of the House.

Thames Flood Barrier

Mr. Ian Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the anticipated effective life expectancy of the Thames barrier is; and if he will commission plans to upgrade or replace the existing Thames barrier. [263129]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency's Thames Estuary 2100 project estimates that under current guidance for sea level rise (DEFRA 2006), the Thames barrier will drop below the 1 in 1,000 standard of protection around 2070.

The Thames Estuary 2100 project will release its draft plan for consultation on March 31. The plan will make recommendations on what actions will be required to manage future tidal flood risk within the estuary, and when these will be required, through to the end of the century. The plan will include recommendations on the future upgrading or replacement of the Thames barrier after 2070.

Waste Disposal: Fees and Charges

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 869W, on waste disposal: domestic waste, to what use the funding committed to support waste incentive pilot schemes will now be put. [262160]

Jane Kennedy: No authorities have so far expressed an interest in using the powers in the Climate Change Act to pilot a waste reduction scheme. We are therefore considering how the funding earmarked for the pilots could best be focused, in line with departmental priorities.

HEALTH

Allergies

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* males and *(b)* females in each age group who have (i) food and (ii) inhalant allergies; and if he will make a statement. [263287]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect these data.

Food and inhalant allergies may present in a variety of forms, including allergic rhinitis, asthma and inflammation of the skin and subcutaneous tissue. The Department's "A review of services for allergy", published in July 2006 (a copy of which has been placed in the Library), provided data on annual prevalence of general practice consultation rates for these conditions. This information is provided in the following tables.

Annual prevalence (of consultation) rates per 10,000

		Age standardised (95 per cent. CI)	*All ages*	*<1*	*1-4*	*5-14*	*15-24*	*25-44*	*45-64*	*65-74*	*75+*
Allergic rhinitis (477)	M	152 (147-158)	152	5	112	308	241	143	86	84	77
	F	171 (165-177)	173	0	73	224	305	214	121	89	70

Source:
RCGP Weekly Returns Service.

Annual prevalence (of consultation) rates per 10,000

		Age standardised (95 per cent. CI)	*All ages*	*<1*	*1-4*	*5-14*	*15-24*	*25-44*	*45-64*	*65-74*	*75+*
Skin and subcutaneous tissue other inflamcond (690-699)	M	564 (552-575)	554	2280	1525	558	360	381	497	723	823
	F	750 (737-763)	746	2201	1592	691	743	637	668	745	821

Source:
RCGP Weekly Returns Service.

Annual prevalence (of consultation) per 10,000 by age and gender

		Age standardised (95 per cent. CI)	*All ages*	*<1*	*1-4*	*5-14*	*15-24*	*25-44*	*45-64*	*65-74*	*75+*
Asthma (493)	M	412 (403-422)	409	41	440	690	441	353	323	429	396
	F	482 (472-493)	484	16	282	501	609	472	488	546	411

Source:
RCGP Weekly Returns Service.

Bone Marrow Disorders

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are on the waiting list for bone marrow transplants in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire. [263732]

Ann Keen: The Department does not hold this information centrally.

Cancer: Drugs

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons his Department recommended that temsirolimus should be referred to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence for appraisal as part of the multiple technology appraisal in the treatment of renal cell carcinoma. [263474]

Ann Keen: Temsirolimus was referred to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) as part of the multiple technology appraisal of drugs for the treatment of renal cell carcinoma in September 2007, following a consultation by NICE with stakeholders on the proposed remit and scope for the appraisal. Information on this consultation, including a summary of responses, is available on the NICE website at:

www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/TA/Wave14/22

Childbirth

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer from the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 634W, on childbirth, what use his Department has made of the figures on survival to age one of babies born in England and Wales by gestation weeks produced by the Office for National Statistics in its research into *(a)* premature babies and *(b)* neonatal deaths. [263578]

Ann Keen: The Department funds but does not directly undertake research concerned with premature birth and neonatal death. We expect the researchers we support to be aware and make appropriate use of vital statistics such as those published by the Office for National Statistics.

Chlamydia: Screening

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of Chlamydia tests carried out in *(a)* genito-urinary medicine clinics, *(b)* GP surgeries and *(c)* pharmacies in each of the last five years. [263576]

Ann Keen: Data on the number of sexual health screens, which includes a test for Chlamydia, in genitourinary medicine (GUM) clinics between 2003 and 2007, the latest year for which figures are available, are shown in the following table.

Sexual health screens

	Number
2003	633,289
2004	727,010
2005	810,140
2006	883,488
2007	1,022,801

Notes:
1. One sexual health screen includes a test for Chlamydia and gonorrhoea at minimum and this is considered as one screen.
2. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are for Chlamydia tests in GUM clinics only. Chlamydia tests in other clinical settings, such as general practice, are not recorded in the KC60 dataset.
3. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are the number of tests made, not the number of patients tested.
4. The information provided has been adjusted for missing clinic data.
5. Data are unavailable for 2008

Source:
Health Protection Agency, KC60 returns

In addition to sexual health screens in GUM clinics, the National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP) provides screening for Chlamydia to asymptomatic people aged under 25 years of age in healthcare and non-healthcare settings across England. The NCSP was launched in 2003. The following table shows the total number of Chlamydia tests done in general practice and pharmacies among 15-24 year-olds during the period 1 April 2003-31 March 2008.

Venue type

	General practitioner surgeries	*Pharmacies*
2003-04	2,445	0
2004-05	7,426	36
2005-06	17,281	8,272
2006-07	23,271	13,309
2007-08	43,046	9,052

Notes:
1. Data includes Chlamydia tests for males, females, and those with unknown/unspecified sex.
2. Data presented are the number of Chlamydia tests performed and not number of people tested. It should be noted that the number of Chlamydia tests collected through the NCSP will be used as a proxy for the number of people tested.
3. Data presented are based on tests with confirmed positive and negative results only. Tests with equivocal, inhibitory and insufficient results have been excluded as most people with these results are retested.
4. Data presented are based on young people resident in England only.
5. The total number of tests will increase annually as the NCSP was rolled out in phases across England with participation of all 152 primary care trusts occurring at the end of 2007-08.
6. The total number of tests done in pharmacies increased substantially in 2005-06 because the Boots Pathfinder pilot was run between November 2005 and March 2008. The pilot project was based on Chlamydia testing being made available in selected Boots pharmacies across London.

Source:
National Chlamydia Screening Programme

Clostridium

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 10 September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1882-3W, on clostridium, how often cancer was mentioned on the death certificates on which *(a)* MRSA and *(b)* clostridium difficile was mentioned in each year. [263677]

Ann Keen: The information is shown in the following tables. Figures for Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) are for the year 1997 to 2007, and for *Clostridium difficile* for the years 1999 and 2001 to 2007, the latest year for which figures are available.

Deaths involving Clostridium difficile[1,2] where cancer[3] was also mentioned on the death certificate, England and Wales[4], 1999, 2001 to 2007[5]

	Persons Deaths
1999	74
2001	94
2002	132
2003	160
2004	236
2005	394
2006	796
2007	1,168

[1] Identified using the methodology described in Office for National Statistics (ONS): Report: Deaths involving *Clostridium difficile*: England and Wales, 2001-2005. Health Statistics Quarterly 33, 71-75.
[2] Deaths involving *Clostridium difficile* can only be identified using the Tenth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10). This has been used by ONS for coding mortality from 2001 onwards and in 1999 for a bridge coding study. Data are therefore not available for 2000 when the Ninth Revision of the ICD was in use.
[3] Cause of death for cancer was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C00-C97.
[4] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.
[5] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Deaths involving Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus[1] where cancer[2] was also mentioned on the death certificate, England and Wales[3], 1999 to 2007[4]

	Persons Deaths
1997	115
1998	118
1999	102
2000	170

Deaths involving Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus[1] where cancer[2] was also mentioned on the death certificate, England and Wales[3], 1999 to 2007[4]

	Persons Deaths
2001	124
2002	149
2003	181
2004	218
2005	305
2006	283
2007	271

[1] Identified using the methodology described in Griffiths C, Lamagni TL, Crowcroft NS, Duckworth G and Rooney C (2004). Trends in MRSA in England and Wales: analysis of morbidity and mortality data for 1993-2002. Health Statistics Quarterly 21, 15-22.
[2] Cause of death for cancer was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 140-208 for 1999 to 2000 and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes C00-C97 for 2001 to 2007. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the number of deaths from this cause, before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.
[3] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.
[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the answer of 10 September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1882-83W, on clostridium, which five other conditions were mentioned most frequently on the death certificates on which *(a)* MRSA and *(b)* clostridium difficile was mentioned in each year; and how often each such condition was mentioned in each year. [263678]

Ann Keen: The information requested is shown in the following tables. Figures for Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) are available for the years 2001 to 2007, and for *Clostridium difficile* for the years 1999 and 2001 to 2007, the latest year for which figures are available.

Table 1: The five causes of death[1] mentioned most frequently on death certificates on which MRSA[2] was also mentioned, England and Wales[3], 2001-07[4,5]

Causes of death	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Deaths (persons) ICD codes
Cerebrovascular diseases	*	140	*	174	265	*	*	I60-I69
Diabetes	148	*	*	*	*	*	253	E10-E14
Diseases of the musculoskeletal system and connective tissue	147	143	178	187	274	284	250	M00-M99
Diseases of the urinary system	260	300	363	393	505	535	498	N00-N39
Heart failure and complications and ill-defined heart disease	*	*	175	*	*	264	*	I50-I51
Influenza and pneumonia	206	192	246	264	401	401	453	J10-J18
Ischaemic heart diseases	196	221	267	311	396	442	404	I20-I25

[1] Selected using International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code groups published in: Griffiths C, Rooney C and Brock A (2005) Leading causes of death in England and Wales—how should we group causes? "Health Statistics Quarterly" 28, p6-17. Codes used to identify MRSA deaths were excluded.
[2] Identified using the methodology described in Griffiths C, Lamagni TL, Crowcroft NS, Duckworth G and Rooney C (2004). Trends in MRSA in England and Wales: analysis of morbidity and mortality data for 1993-2002. "Health Statistics Quarterly" 21, 15-22.
[3] Figures for England and Wales includes deaths of non-residents.
[4] Data are for deaths registered in each calendar year.
[5] An asterisk (*) denotes this was not one of the five causes of death mentioned most frequently in this year.

Table 2: The five causes of death[1] mentioned most frequently on death certificates on which Clostridium difficile[2,3] was also mentioned, England and Wales[4], 1999 and 2001 to 2007[5,6]

Causes of death	1999	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Deaths (persons) ICD codes
Cerebrovascular diseases	*	*	*	*	*	468	769	1,057	I60-I69
Diseases of the urinary system	173	216	302	381	535	894	1,657	2,086	N00-N39
Heart failure and complications and ill-defined heart disease	131	166	182	232	290	*	*	*	I50-I51
Influenza and pneumonia	333	364	445	513	618	992	1,706	2,180	J10-J18
Ischaemic heart diseases	183	223	244	373	433	675	1,199	1,604	I20-I25
Septicaemia	145	202	280	349	461	816	1,459	1,627	A40-A41

[1] Selected using International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) code groups published in: Griffiths C, Rooney C and Brock A (2005) Leading causes of death in England and Wales—how should we group causes? "Health Statistics Quarterly" 28, p6-17. Codes used to identify *Clostridium difficile* deaths were excluded.
[2] Identified using the methodology described in Office for National Statistics (ONS): Report: Deaths involving *Clostridium difficile*: England and Wales, 2001-05. "Health Statistics Quarterly" 33, 71-75.
[3] Deaths involving *Clostridium difficile* can be identified using the Tenth Revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10). This has been used by ONS for coding mortality from 2001 onwards and in 1999 for a bridge coding study. Data are therefore not available for 2000 when the Ninth Revision of the ICD was in use.
[4] Figures for England and Wales includes deaths of non-residents.
[5] Data are for deaths registered in each calendar year.
[6] An asterisk (*) denotes this was not one of the five causes of death mentioned most frequently in this year

General Practitioners: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many new *(a)* GP surgeries, *(b)* GP-led health centres and *(c)* polyclinics are planned in (i) the Enfield North constituency and (ii) Enfield Primary Care Trust area. [263868]

Mr. Bradshaw: This is a matter for the local national health service. We are advised that Enfield Primary Care Trust will be consulting on a Primary Care Strategy for the whole of Enfield in 2009. The hon. Member may wish to contact them for further information.

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GP surgeries have been *(a)* refurbished and

(b) rebuilt in (i) Enfield North constituency and (ii) the Enfield Primary Care Trust area in each of the last 11 years. [263869]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not held centrally. The hon. Member may wish to contact her local national health service organisations for more information.

Hospitals: Cleaning Services

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1474W, on hospitals: cleaning services, what steps his Department has taken to evaluate the effectiveness of each of the steps to improve hospital cleanliness. [263445]

Ann Keen: The Department has given a strong public commitment to hospital cleanliness and has set in place a comprehensive programme of work that has improved cleaning standards across the national health service. Evaluation of the effectiveness of all the measures set in place is independently available via the Healthcare Commission's annual health check, its annual in-patient survey and its programme of specialist inspections of acute trusts to assess their compliance with the duties set out in the "Health Act 2006 Code of Practice for the Prevention and Control of Healthcare Associated Infections" ('hygiene code'). Cleaning standards are also measured via the annual Patient Environment Action Team (PEAT) inspection programme.

In addition, a number of other evaluations of the effectiveness of, or compliance with, particular measures are set out in the table.

Measure	*Action taken*
National deep clean programme	The Department published a compendium of good practice studies arising from the national deep clean programme, "From Deep Clean to Keep Clean learning from the deep clean programme" in October 2008, as a basis for shared learning across the NHS.
National Specifications for cleanliness in the NHS	The Department is currently working with National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) and key stakeholders to explore the scope for using these specifications to develop a national standard for cleanliness in the NHS. It is also seeking the views of those stakeholders to identify measures that could sharpen the focus of the existing national specifications.
Trusts' strategic and operational cleaning plans make provision for on-going deep clean activity	With the support of the NPSA, the PEAT protocol has been amended to include a specific question on plans for on-going deep cleaning.
'Board to Ward' guidance highlighting the commitment needed to ensure that all staff understand the role they play in preventing infections and providing a clean environment	"Going Further Faster II: Applying the learning to reduce HCAI and improve cleanliness" was published in June 2008 reflecting the accumulated learning, evidence and good practice on the key actions that NHS trusts can take towards the goal of eradicating avoidable healthcare associated infections and delivering a clean NHS.
"Clean Safe Care Reducing Infections and saving lives"—comprehensive strategy drawing together key initiatives to tackle healthcare associated infections (HCAIs) and cleanliness	The Department has commissioned an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Healthcare Associated Infection and Cleanliness Improvement programme (one strand of the 'Clean, safe care', strategy) with a specific focus on the work streams focused on reductions in the incidence of MRSA.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of infections which were caused by vancomycin-resistant enterococcus in each of the last five years. [263439]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not available but reporting of clinically-significant glycopeptide resistant enterococci bloodstream infection has been mandatory for national health service acute trusts in England since September 2003.

Glycopeptide resistant enterococci (GRE) include organisms that are resistant to either vancomycin or teicoplanin and the available data are shown as follows.

Reporting year (October to September each year)	*Number of GRE bloodstream infection reports*
2003-04	628
2004-05	757
2005-06	903
2006-07	910

Source:
Health Protection Agency

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of ventilator-associated pneumonia have been recorded in each of the last five years. [263440]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of healthcare-acquired infections which were classified as surgical site infections in each of the last five years. [263441]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not available.

A prevalence study, commissioned by the Department, carried out in 2006, showed that surgical site infection accounted for 14.5 per cent. of the healthcare-associated infections.

Human Papilloma Virus

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has for the implementation of EU guidelines for quality assurance in cervical cancer screening on human papilloma virus testing as a follow-up for women with borderline or abnormal smear test results; and if he will make a statement; [263472]

(2) when he plans to publish the results of his Department's human papilloma virus sentinel sites implementation project. [263473]

Ann Keen: Work on the implementation phase of human papilloma virus (HPV) triage for women with borderline and low-grade abnormalities using HPV testing has begun in six sentinel sites. Results from these sites are expected by the end of December 2009, at which point further roll-out will be considered.

Maternity Services: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much has been spent on maternity services in each financial year since 1997-98; and how much he plans to spend on such services in each financial year to 2010-11; [257565]

(2) how much the Government have spent on maternity services in each financial year since 1997-98; and how much they plan to spend on such services in each financial year to 2010-11. [262286]

Ann Keen: Figures for the commissioning of secondary health care (maternity) services by primary care trusts (PCTs), health authorities (HAs) and primary care groups for the period 1997-98 to 2007-08 are in the following table. These figures are for secondary health care only and a similar collection is not made for primary/community maternity care.

Purchase of secondary health care: maternity services, 1997-98 to 2007-08

Financial year	*Expenditure (£000)*
1997-98	1,043,881
1998-99	1,096,158
1999-2000	1,080,520
2000-01	1,258,219
2001-02	1,324,780
2002-03	1,256,757
2003-04	1,350,286
2004-05	1,544,838
2005-06	1,677,204
2006-07	1,616,777
2007-08	1,786,896

Source:
NHS Summarised Accounts 1997-98 to 2007-08.

The table shows the aggregated expenditure for each year, however any inter-PCT or inter-HA expenditure is eliminated to avoid double counting.

The programme budgeting figures for gross expenditure across both primary and secondary care on maternity and reproductive health for the period 2003-04 to 2006-07 are in the following table. It is not possible to separate maternity data from reproductive health data, and changes in data collection methodology mean that comparative data are not available. Programme budgeting data were collected for the first time in 2003-04. The quality of programme budgeting data has improved over time, and there are a number of changes that will affect the use of the data for time-series analysis. These include changes to clinical coding and changes in the methodology used for calculating the data.

Programme budgeting category 18 includes expenditure on both maternity and reproductive health, therefore direct comparisons cannot be made with NHS summarised accounts data.

Programme budgeting data

Financial year	*Expenditure (£000)*
2003-04	2,570,147
2004-05	2,617,116
2005-06	2,929,764
2006-07	2,932,120

These figures have been published in the Department of Health resource accounts. Programme budgeting data for 2007-08 are still being collected and validated, and will include primary and secondary care maternity and reproductive health. These data will be published on the Department's website.

Maternity services have been identified as a priority for the national health service in the operating frameworks for 2008-09 and 2009-10. For the period 2008-09 to 2010-11, £330 million additional investment for maternity is included within PCT revenue allocations. PCTs were informed of their revenue allocations for 2008-09 in December 2007. The 2009-10 and 2010-11 revenue allocations were announced on 8 December 2008. It is for NHS commissioners and trusts to plan the exact spend on maternity services in each financial year to 2010-11 in line with national and local priorities and local plans, including the strategic health authority visions for maternity and the new born developed as part of the NHS next stage review.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1478W, on maternity services: finance, how much additional funding he estimates NHS trusts in England will receive for the provision of maternity services in each year from 2008-09 to 2010-11, broken down by the element of the maternity tariff through which the additional funding will be received. [263687]

Ann Keen: The payment by results national tariff pays national health service trusts for the amount of activity they do. Therefore the amount of additional funding that NHS trusts will receive for the provision of maternity services within the scope of the tariff in each year from 2008-09 to 2010-11 will depend on levels of activity. The latest year for which hospital activity data are available is 2007-08.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1478W, on maternity services: finance, what percentage changes there will be to each element of the maternity tariff in each year from 2008-09 to 2010-11. [263688]

Ann Keen: In 2009-10, Healthcare Resource Group (HRG) version 4 has replaced HRG version 3.5 as the tariff currency. There have also been structural changes to the out-patients tariff. These changes mean that it is not possible to make direct comparisons between 2008-09 and 2009-10. The 2010-11 tariff has not been published.

Medical Treatments: Labelling

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will meet *(a)* the British Brands Group and *(b)* the Anti-Counterfeiting Group to discuss healthcare product branding. [264164]

Ann Keen: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency is responsible for regulating medicines and medical devices and is responsible for branding of medicines and the tackling of counterfeiting of medicines.

To date, no requests have been made by either of these groups to meet with the Secretary of State for Health or other Health Ministers.

However, any such request to the Minister would be considered.

Medicines

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what studies his Department has undertaken into competition in provision of pharmaceutical products by high street pharmacies and GP practices. [263367]

Phil Hope: The Department has not undertaken a formal study. However, we sought views on a proposal to allow, where there is no convenient alternative, dispensing doctors to sell over-the-counter medicines as part of our wider consultation last autumn, "Pharmacy in England: Building on strengths—delivering the future—proposals for legislative change".

We published a partial impact assessment concerning this proposal with that consultation which includes a competition assessment that sets out our analysis of the possible effects on competition of the proposal. It is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Closedconsultations

and a copy has been placed in the Library.

The proposal was also discussed at events around the country as part of the consultation process. A full report of that consultation will be published in due course.

Midwives: Manpower

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what mechanism his Department is using to ensure that the 4,000 extra midwives to be provided by 2012 are being provided at a local level in the NHS; [262285]

(2) how many of the 4,000 extra midwives to be provided by 2012 have already been provided; and how many he expects will be provided in each year to 2012. [262287]

Ann Keen: The number of midwives increased by 624 between September 2006 and September 2007. The following table sets out strategic health authority (SHA) projections for midwives up to 2012.

NHS midwife headcount and projections in England

SHA	*2006*[1]	*2007*[1]	*2008*[2]	*2009*[3]	*2012*[3]
East Midlands	1,703	1,692	1,811	1,792	1,942
East of England	2,326	2,380	2,416	2,439	2,586
London	4,301	4,188	4,612	4,402	4,720
North East	1,272	1,284	1,323	1,323	1,390
North West	3,949	4,030	3,908	4,193	4,437
South Central	1,550	1,787	1,726	1,855	2,329
South East Coast	1,760	1,808	1,865	2,368	2,538
South West	2,370	2,344	2,523	2,556	2,875
West Midlands	2,770	2,750	2,933	2,924	3,063
Yorks and Humber	2,443	2,460	2,455	2,492	2,644
England total	24,444	24,723	25,572	26,344	28,524

[1] Actual data from work force census.
[2] Estimate of electronic staff records plus bank staff at 30 September 2007. Actual 2008 NHS work force census figures to be published on 25 March 2009.
[3] Predictions based on current estimates and work force trends.

The NHS operating framework 2009-10 already provides a strong steer on making demonstrable overall improvements in maternity services, including 4,000 more midwives by 2012, contingent on the birth rate.

NHS: Drugs

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the referral of ultra-orphan drugs to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence for appraisal. [263475]

Ann Keen: The referral to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) of drugs for the treatment of very small patient populations, sometimes referred to as 'ultra-orphan' drugs, is considered on a case-by-case basis.

The Department and NICE are currently consulting on proposed revisions to the process and criteria for selecting topics for referral to NICE'S technology appraisal work programme. The consultation document is available at:

www.nice.org.uk/getinvolved/suggestatopic/

and a copy has already been placed in the Library.

NHS: Working Hours

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the tariff uplift breakdown for 2009-10, published by his Department on 5 February 2009, if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's background analysis of the sum required to support compliance with the European Working Time Directive. [262637]

Ann Keen: The European Working Time Directive (EWTD) requires a 14 per cent. reduction in the maximum working hours of doctors in training, from 56 to 48 from August 2009. This equates to the hours provided by around 4,000 doctors in training. Implementation can be through a range of measures, including additional medical work force capacity at either junior or senior level, new ways of working so that non-medical staff can take up duties currently done by doctors in training or through service redesign such as implementing hospital at night working practices.

The Department is making a total of £310 million available by 2009-10 to support implementation in recurrent PCT allocations. In 2008-09, £110 million was included in the quantum of allocation funding in all primary care trusts (PCTs) receiving revenues growth of 5.5 per cent. In 2009-10, a further £200 million has been included

in PCT revenue allocations, of which £150 million will flow through tariff income to trusts and the remaining £50 million in PCT revenue allocations will be targeted to trusts according to strategic health authority (SHA) direction to support trained doctor solutions, particularly in paediatrics and anaesthetics.

The Department has estimated that the full cost of implementation could be around £300 million per year. This calculation is based on an analysis of the difference in doctors being 100 per cent. compliant at 56 hours and 100 per cent. compliant at 48 hours, so includes a valuation of:

difference in pay to existing doctors; and

assessment of the value of hours lost.

This level of detail information of the background analysis is not held centrally.

Nurses: Manpower

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of nurses which will be required in the NHS over the next three years. [262921]

Ann Keen: The latest assessment was made in 2008. These estimates suggested that the employment of qualified nurses (including midwives, heath visiting staff and general practitioner practice nurses) would increase from 322,182 (in full-time equivalents (FTEs)) in September 2007 to approximately 327,000 FTEs in 2008-09, 329,000 FTEs in 2009-10 and 334,500 FTEs in 2010-11. This would be a growth of almost 4 per cent. over three years.

These are broad projections made for central purposes and are subject to local work force planning decisions and local factors including skill mix, productivity and affordability.

Nurses: Training

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the attrition rate for nurse training was for the *(a)* first, *(b)* second and *(c)* third year of training in the latest year for which figures are available. [263573]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally.

Obesity

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to introduce a more easily understandable measure of obesity. [263515]

Ann Keen: Obesity in adults is measured using Body Mass Index (BMI). It compares weight to height by dividing the weight measurement in kilograms by the square of the height in metres. BMI is the internationally recognised standard for identifying overweight and obesity. An adult who has a BMI equal to 30 or greater is classified as obese.

In children defining obesity is more difficult because they are growing, so both their height and weight change at the same time. In children, standard United Kingdom reference charts for weight relative to height are used which are age and gender specific.

We have no current plans for changing the existing measurement of obesity.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Ms Angela C. Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms are *(a)* in place and *(b)* planned to assist people on low incomes with prescription charges. [263632]

Ann Keen: The current mechanisms in place for entitlement to free prescriptions on the basis of a low income are as follows.

(1) People receiving the following:

income support,

income based jobseeker's allowance,

income related employment and support allowance, or

pension credit guarantee credit (in respect of a partner under 60 as the recipient would be exempt on age grounds); or

(2) A member of a family that is receiving:

working tax credit with child tax credit,

working tax credit that includes a disability or severe disability element, or

child tax credit but is not eligible for working tax credit, and

the annual income of the family for tax credit purposes is £15,050 or less (or £15,276 from 6 April 2009);

(3) An asylum seeker for whom support is provided under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;

(4) A person who lives permanently in a care home whose fees are paid in whole or part by a local authority;

(5) A young person supported by a local authority as he/she has just left care; and

(6) Anyone not in any of the above groups may make a National Health Service Low Income scheme claim for their entitlement to free prescriptions to be calculated by the National Health Service Business Services Authority.

Prescription prepayment certificates (PPCs) for three months or 12 months are available for anyone who is not otherwise entitled to free prescriptions. PPCs offer savings to anyone who needs four or more prescription items in three months or 14 or more items in 12 months. 12-month PPCs may be paid for by 10 direct debit instalments.

We recognise we need a fairer system of prescription charging. That is why the Prime Minister announced in September last year that exemption from prescription charges would be extended to cancer patients and to patients with other long-term conditions. In this way, we will alleviate the financial burden for those suffering from ill health.

Ms Angela C. Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* Welsh Assembly Government Ministers, *(b)* Scottish Executive Ministers and *(c)* Northern Ireland Executive Ministers on levels of prescription charges. [263634]

Ann Keen: We have had no such discussions. Prescription charging is a devolved matter and decisions in this area are for each devolved Administration to determine.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Bail Accommodation and Support Service

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether a defendant required to reside in bail accommodation and support service (BASS) accommodation as a condition of bail is eligible for *(a)* housing and *(b)* council tax benefit in relation to their (i) usual place of residence and (ii) BASS accommodation. [262345]

Kitty Ussher: Defendants who are released on bail to BASS accommodation are entitled to housing benefit and council tax benefit for that accommodation because it is their usual place of residence. If a defendant has a place of residence other than their BASS accommodation he/she would not normally be entitled to housing benefit for that former home as well. There are no provisions to pay council tax benefit for two homes because generally a person does not have liability for two homes if only one is being occupied.

Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission: Finance

Mr. Rooney: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what funding has been allocated to the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission in each year between 2008-09 and 2011-12; [250532]

(2) what funding has been allocated *(a)* by his Department and *(b)* the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission for operating the Child Maintenance Options service for each year from 2008-09 to 2011-12. [250533]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 22 January 2009]:* The funding the Department has allocated to the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is published in the Commission's Business Plan. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Minister promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner. The Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what funding has been allocated to the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission in each year between 2008-09 and 2011-12. [250532]; and

What funding has been allocated (a) by his Department and (b) the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission for operating the Child Maintenance Options service for each year from 2008-09 to 2011-12. [250533]

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission business plan published in July 2008, sets out the agreed funding for the current three year spending review period. The funding estimates set out in the business plan were based on the best estimates, trends and evidence available at the time. The funding requirement was estimated as £625 million for the current year to March 2009 and indicative funding requirement of £1,137 million for the following two years to March 2011. This funding covers both the Commission's spend on developing new services, creating the future statutory maintenance scheme and the full running costs of the Child Support Agency for the three years to the end of March 2011.

The three year contract to deliver the Child Maintenance Options was published 5 March 2008 as an Official Journal of the European Union contract award notice with a contract value of £23 million.

Future funding for the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission beyond April 2011 is subject to the next spending review.

Christmas Bonus: Advertising

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much his Department and its agencies have spent on informing the public of the extra one-off payment of £60 to Christmas bonus recipients; and in which publications and broadcasting outlets such advertisements have been placed; [253659]

(2) how much his Department and its agencies spent on placing the advertisement which appeared in the Sunday Times on 11 January 2009 relating to the one-off payment of £60 to Christmas bonus recipients; what other publications this advertisement was placed in; at what cost; and whether he approved the text in the advertisement. [253660]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The advertising was booked and bought together to provide coverage across key media titles. The total media cost for the week's advertising was £75,110.92.

The advert was placed in the following 19 daily and weekly titles:

The Sun
Daily Mirror
Daily Star
Daily Mail
Daily Telegraph
The Independent
The Times
Daily Express
The Guardian
The News of the World
Sunday Mirror
The People
Daily Star Sunday
Sunday Express
Mail on Sunday
Sunday Telegraph
Independent on Sunday
Sunday Times
The Observer

The advertising was undertaken to make pensioners, and their family and friends, aware of the additional Christmas bonus payment they will receive, announced in the Pre Budget Report on 24 November 2008.

The advertising explained that the payment would be made separately from the usual Christmas bonus and could be received at any time between January and March. It aimed to ensure that pensioners understood what the payment was and when they would receive it; and thus also to limit calls to the Department's contact centres.

The additional Christmas Bonus payment was announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his 2008 Pre-Budget Report as one means of providing short-term support to help vulnerable groups through

the economic downturn. The words 'real help now' appear on all public facing communications designed to promote support for the public and business during the economic downturn.

Given that some 15 million individuals will receive this additional payment advertising was deemed the most cost-effective way of communicating information to this group of our customers. The alternative way of reaching this group directly was through direct mail which would have been less efficient in this instance (estimated mailing costs to reach a group of this size are approximately £3.3 million).

The advertising copy was approved by senior officials in the Department for Work and Pensions and the Pension, Disability and Carers Service. Ministers were informed of the planned activity.

Compensation

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many consolatory payments have been made by his Department with regard to the operation of his Department's *(a)* debt management organisations and *(b)* Recovery from Estates Debt Management Unit in each year since 1997 for which information is available. [249374]

Kitty Ussher: Information is available from April 2007 to date. We are not able to separate the data between payments made for debt management and recovery from estates. Information prior to this period is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost

The available information is in the following table:

	Number
2007-08	91
2008[1]	37

[1] To January 2009

Departmental Telephone Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1613W, on departmental telephone services, how much revenue was generated by the 0845 numbers used by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its executive agencies for public access services in each of the last three years. [262884]

Jonathan Shaw: DWP and its executive agencies do not receive any revenue from incoming phone calls to 0845 numbers used for public access services.

Financial Services: Elderly

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how his Department plans to increase access for older people to information on financial matters; [255761]

(2) what steps he is taking to improve his Department's financial advice for older people; [255771]

(3) if his Department will provide support for voluntary sector initiatives which promote financial education amongst older people; [255763]

(4) what assessment he has made of whether improving financial literacy amongst older people would contribute to tackling poverty and promoting well-being under Public Service Agreement 17. [255762]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department provides directly, or supports the provision of, information on financial matters through a range of initiatives. All of these benefit older people, and some are designed specifically for them. All of this activity contributes to the goal, encapsulated in PSA 17, to tackle poverty and promote greater independence and well-being in later life, although no quantitative assessment of the impact of financial literacy on these outcomes has been made.

First, through the 'Now Let's Talk Money campaign', the Department has engaged with many partner organisations and forged links with over 4,000 intermediary organisations. One contract was awarded to encourage advice agencies and credit unions to target older people, whilst also encouraging older people to take up the advice which is available.

The Department is also working closely with HM Treasury and the Financial Services Authority on the Money Guidance pathfinder that will launch later this spring in the north-west and north-east of England and will provide impartial financial guidance to up to 750,000 people in these regions. The guidance will be delivered by telephone, face to face, and on the internet. Face to face provision will be delivered by a range of partners, including third sector organisations.

The pathfinder will be supported by The Pensions Advisory Service (TPAS), an independent body that provides information and guidance across the full range of pensions issues. TPAS is funded by the Department. Its running costs are then recovered from the general levy on pensions schemes.

Further information on pensions, and saving for later life will be provided through the comprehensive communication strategy that the Department is developing to support the introduction of pension reforms that will extend the opportunity of workplace pension saving to millions, many for the first time. This effort will draw on lessons learned from the Pensions Education Fund—a three-year UK-wide initiative using third sector organisations to test approaches, in a workplace setting, to provide information on saving for retirement. It involved a series of 26 pilot projects, 10 of which include older people aged 50 years or more in their target group.

The Pension, Disability and Carers' Service provides older people with essential information on their entitlement to pensions and related benefits in later life. Its Local Service visits approximately 13,000 older customers each week, providing a holistic financial assessment and benefit service targeted at vulnerable older people. It delivers direct access and assistance to customers so that they receive benefits and services, promoting their independence and security. Information and guidance is also available through the Pension, Disability and Carers' Service contact centres and websites, on Directgov, and in leaflet form. Services on offer include the forecasting of state pension entitlement, based on an individual's contributions record, and the tracing of lost private pensions.

Funeral Payments

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many funeral payments were made in each year since 1997; what the average payment was in each year; and how much has been recovered from estates towards the repayment of such grants. [263568]

Kitty Ussher: The information requested is given in the following table.

Funeral payments for Great Britain

	Number of awards (thousand)	Average award (£)	Recoveries (£ million)
1997-98	48	792	1.0
1998-99	46	839	0.9
1999-2000	44	866	0.8
2000-01	40	892	0.7
2001-02	42	912	0.6
2002-03	45	929	1.1
2003-04	46	1,019	1.2
2004-05	44	1,051	1.4
2005-06	42	1,081	1.3
2006-07	41	1,117	1.0
2007-08	40	1,162	0.7

Note:
Recoveries in each year represent the total recovered from estates in that year, not the total recovered from awards made in that year.
Source:
Annual reports by the Secretary of State for social security/work and pensions on the social fund (with greater accuracy for recoveries than in the annual reports for the first three years obtained from the DWP social fund policy, budget and management information system).

Housing Benefit

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what account his Department took of the requirements of section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 when deciding to post giro cheques for local housing allowance to tenants at multi-occupancy addresses; how many such giro cheques have been stolen; and if he will make a statement. [261693]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 9 March 2009]:* Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on authorities, including local authorities, to consider the likely crime and disorder implications of the functions that they carry out.

Local housing allowance is normally paid direct into bank accounts so the instances of issuing local housing allowance cheques should be minimal. Not being able to open a suitable bank account was accepted under the safeguards as grounds for reverting to payment of local housing allowance to the landlord, particularly in the case of people living in housing in multiple occupation.

We do not collect any statistical information from local authorities specifically on instrument of payment fraud. However, the potential for fraud is expected to be very small given the drive for direct payment into bank accounts and the provisions of the safeguards which allow for reverting to payment of local housing allowance to the landlord in certain circumstances. We are closely monitoring how the scheme is working in practice and will undertake a review during the first two years of national operation.

Members: Correspondence

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Newcastle upon Tyne Central of 5 November 2008, regarding Brian Hold. [264253]

Jonathan Shaw: A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 27 November 2008.

Pensioners: Carer's Allowance

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 43W, on carer's allowance, if he will estimate the cost of extending payment to all those of pension age assessed as eligible; and if he will make a statement. [260422]

Jonathan Shaw: The increase in annual carer's allowance expenditure as a result of the extension described would be around £950 million.

It should be noted that unless major changes to rules on how carer's allowance is treated within pension credit were to be introduced, the overall Exchequer cost of such a measure would be smaller due to the offsetting reduction in pension credit expenditure.

Notes:

1. £950 million figure is the annual cost using 2008-09 benefit rates and August 2008 Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study data to produce a caseload estimate.

2. The figure is rounded to the nearest £50 million.

Pensioners: Invalidity Benefits

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of those receiving a state pension were sent an incorrect notification of their state pension entitlement for 2008-09 owing to an error in the calculation of invalidity addition. [260129]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 2 March 2009]:* There was no error relating to the calculation of invalidity additions for entitlement to state pension for the year 2008-09. An error has occurred with regard to notifications of state pension entitlement for 2009-10. It is estimated that around 45,000 state pension customers may have received an incorrect notification. This is 0.29 per cent. of the total number of notifications.

Notes:

1. This estimate includes customers living in Northern Ireland

2. The total number of notifications issued this year was 15.3 million.

Pensioners: Social Security Benefits

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the annual cost to the Exchequer of *(a)* imputing one pound per week of income from each £1,000 of capital for pensioner applicants for means-tested benefits and *(b)* abolishing the imputation of income from capital for such applicants; and if he will make a statement. [250399]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 22 January 2009]:* In pension credit the first £6,000 of capital is fully disregarded (£10,000 for those in care homes). For each

£500 (or part of £500) above this level we assume notional income at a rate of £1. There is no upper capital limit in pension credit.

Receipt of the guarantee credit passports recipients onto full housing benefit and council tax benefit.

In housing benefit and council tax benefit there is a capital limit of £16,000, which means that people with capital above this level will not normally qualify for benefit. Capital of £6,000 or less is ignored (£10,000 for those in care homes). For those customers who have reached the age to qualify for pension credit notional income is assumed on capital between £6,000 and £16,000 at a rate of £1 per week for each £500 or part of £500.

The tariff income formula is not intended to represent any rate of return that could be obtained from investing capital. It provides a simple method of calculating the weekly contribution that people with capital in excess of £6,000 (£10,000 for those in care homes) are expected to make from their resources to help meet their normal living costs.

As there is no link with actual market rates, tariff income rules are not adjusted when interest rates change. If you were to calculate an implicit rate for pensioners, based on capital of £6,500 it would be 0.8 per cent.

In answer to part *(a)* of the question, abolishing the current capital disregard and assuming notional income at a rate of £1 for each £1,000 of capital or part of £1,000 for pension credit, housing benefit and council tax benefit would save the Exchequer approximately £70 million per year (2008-09 prices). However, pensioners with savings of less than £6,000 would be worse off. Removing the current disregards would mean that all those pensioners with modest savings, who currently have no income assumed from capital, would see their benefit reduced. Retaining the current disregards and calculating national income based on bands of £1,000 above the level of the disregard would cost the Exchequer approximately £170 million per year (2008-09).

In answer to part *(b)* abolishing the tariff income rules, but retaining the upper capital limits in housing benefit and council tax benefit, would cost approximately £550 million per year (2008-09 prices).

Note:

These estimates have been calculated using the Policy Simulation Model (PSM) which uses data from the Family Resources Survey (FRS). Estimates are subject to sampling and modelling uncertainty.

Redundancy: Cumbria

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have been made redundant in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland constituency in the last six months. [263801]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people have been made redundant in (a) Cumbria and (b) Copeland constituency in the last six months. (263801)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles labour market statistics for local areas from the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS), following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. However, these sources are not designed to estimate the number of redundancies over a six month period at the geographic levels requested.

Winter Fuel Payments

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department is conducting a review into how cold weather payments are calculated. [252974]

Kitty Ussher: The cold weather payment scheme is reviewed every year in the summer. The Met Office will consider all representations from Members of Parliament relating to the suitability of postcode to weather station links. Any changes are then made for the following winter. In addition to this, there has also been an internal review of these processes conducted by the Permanent Secretary of DWP.

Winter Fuel Payments: Lancashire

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much he expects to pay to pensioner households in West Lancashire constituency in winter fuel payments in 2008-09; [261963]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of households in West Lancashire constituency which will receive the *(a)* £250 and *(b)* £400 winter fuel payment in 2008-09. [261964]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In winter 2006-07, the latest winter for which we have information, my Department made 11,720 winter fuel payments to households in the constituency of West Lancashire with a member aged 60-79; and 2,890 winter fuel payments to households in the constituency of West Lancashire with a member aged 80 or over. I expect similar numbers of winter fuel payments to be paid in 2008-09.

Expenditure on winter fuel payments in the parliamentary constituency of West Lancashire in 2006-07 was £3.4 million. Actual expenditure data are not yet available for 2008-09 and forecasts of benefit expenditure are not produced below national level.

Notes:

1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Parliamentary constituencies and local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

3. A small number of these households receive amounts higher than the usual rate for the household, where the household includes more than two individuals each entitled to payments at half of the usual household rate.

Source:

Information directorate 100 per cent data.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Building Schools for the Future

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he plans to announce decisions on bids for funding under the Buildings Schools for the Future programme made by

local authorities in response to his Department's request for bids relating to proposed capital projects which could be brought forward to 2009-10. [263377]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 13 March 2009]:* We have not invited local authorities to bid to bring forward Building Schools for the Future (BSF) funding, because the strategic planning that underpins BSF means it is not a suitable programme to act as a fiscal stimulus. BSF typically involves the building of entire new schools; so design and planning need care and time. Accelerating the construction would curtail this planning and would thereby jeopardise the quality and transformational nature of the programme. We are however working with partnerships for schools to simplify procedures and accelerate delivery, and the procurement process has already been accelerated and costs reduced.

On 3 March, we announced allocations to authorities and schools of schools capital from other programmes brought forward from 2010-11 into 2009-10, to act as a fiscal stimulus and to bring investment benefits early to pupils and staff. Dorset was allocated advances totalling £12.0 million, of which £9.0 million is for the local authority, and £3.0 million for schools as an advance of devolved formula capital to be used by schools for their local priorities.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which local education authorities *(a)* have commenced projects under the Building Schools for the Future programme, *(b)* have been given approval for schemes but have yet to start and *(c)* have not been given approval for schemes. [263657]

Jim Knight: The formal start of projects in BSF is the meeting between the local authority, DCSF and Partnerships for Schools (PfS) known as the remit meeting.

Please see following list:

Local authorities which have commenced BSF projects

Barking and Dagenham
Barnsley
Birmingham
Blackburn
Blackpool
Bournemouth
Bradford
Bristol
Cambridgeshire
Camden
Coventry
Derby
Derbyshire
Doncaster
Durham
Ealing
Enfield
Essex
Gateshead
Greenwich
Hackney
Halton
Hammersmith and Fulham
Haringey
Hartlepool
Hertfordshire
Hillingdon
Islington
Kensington and Chelsea
Kent
Kingston-upon-Hull
Knowsley
Lambeth
Lancashire
Leeds
Leicester
Lewisham
Liverpool
Luton
Manchester
Middlesbrough
Newcastle
Newham
North East Lincolnshire
North Lincolnshire
North Tyneside
Nottingham
Nottinghamshire
Oldham
Poole
Portsmouth
Redcar and Cleveland
Rochdale
Rotherham
Salford
Sandwell
Sheffield
Solihull
Somerset
South Tyneside
Southwark
St. Helens
Staffordshire
Stockton-on-Tees
Stoke-on-Trent
Suffolk
Sunderland
Tameside
Telford and Wrekin
Tower Hamlets
Waltham Forest
Wandsworth
Westminster
Wolverhampton
Worcestershire

Local authorities which have been given approval for schemes but which have yet to start

Bedford
Southampton

Walsall
Hounslow
Kirklees
Suffolk

Local authorities which have not yet been given approval for schemes to start

Barnet
Bath and North East Somerset
Bexley
Bolton
Bracknell Forest
Brent
Brighton and Hove
Bromley
Buckinghamshire
Bury
Calderdale
Central Bedfordshire[1]
Cheshire East[1]
Cornwall
Croydon
Cumbria
Darlington
Devon
Dorset
Dudley
East Riding of Yorkshire
East Sussex
Gloucestershire
Hampshire
Harrow
Havering
Herefordshire
Isle of Wight
Kingston upon Thames
Leicestershire
Lincolnshire
Medway
Merton
Milton Keynes
Norfolk
North Somerset
North Yorkshire
Northamptonshire
Northumberland
Oxfordshire
Peterborough
Plymouth
Reading
Redbridge
Richmond upon Thames
Rutland
Sefton
Shropshire
Slough
South Gloucestershire
Southend-on-Sea
Stockport
Surrey
Sutton
Swindon
Thurrock
Torbay
Trafford
Wakefield
Warrington
Warwickshire
West Berkshire
West Cheshire and Chester[1]
West Sussex
Wigan
Wiltshire
Windsor and Maidenhead
Wirral
Wokingham
York

[1] Submitted an expression of interest in the BSF reprioritisation in advance of the boundary changes.

Notes:

1. Authorities which have had their remit meeting are considered to have started projects.

2. Authorities which are in included in Waves 1-6a of BSF but have not yet had their remit meeting are considered to have approval for schemes but have not yet started.

3. The authorities that have not yet entered the programme are considered to not yet have approval.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools in each local education authority area have been approved for funding for each wave of the Building Schools for the Future programme; how much has been allocated to each school; which company has been awarded each contract; and on what date each project *(a)* was or *(b)* will be completed. [263658]

Jim Knight: Tim Byles, chief executive of Partnerships for Schools, will write to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the House Libraries.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the merits of *(a)* refurbishment and *(b)* rebuilding of schools; what estimate he has made of the amount of energy which will be consumed for completion of the rebuilding programme; and if he will make it his policy to publish statistics on the number of schools (i) refurbished and (ii) rebuilt under his Department's programmes. [263672]

Jim Knight: The comparative costs and merits of refurbishing and rebuilding schools vary from one school to another. Options, including refurbishment and rebuilding as appropriate, are appraised and compared locally, by or on behalf of local education authorities.

The Department has not assessed the energy required for completion of the rebuilding programme. Refurbishment and rebuilding projects above a threshold are required to meet challenging targets based on a standard form of environmental assessment that takes into account construction methods.

In the 2007 publication "Better Buildings, Better Design, Better Education", my Department provided information on numbers of schools rebuilt or improved in England since 1997, including 1,106 new schools and a further 27,000 new or improved classrooms. The information was derived from data received from local education authorities and we anticipate asking authorities for an update of the information later this year.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many local education authorities fall within the indicative prioritisation of first follow-on projects of the Building Schools for the Future programme; how much the bids submitted by each are; and on what date he plans to announce which authorities are to be given approval to proceed. [263675]

Jim Knight: 95 local authorities sent in revised expressions of interest for the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme which include proposals for first follow-on projects. I am making the indicative BSF prioritisation lists available in the House Libraries—they were announced on 2 March 2009.

Guidance to authorities on revising their expressions of interest included that follow-on projects should be up to £100 million in capital value, and Partnerships for Schools (PfS) provided a funding model to assist authorities. Details of projects, including capital value, will be appraised by PfS when it engages with authorities on their readiness to deliver.

I have not set dates for announcing formal entry into the BSF programme. Before then, PfS will engage with authorities to discuss their readiness to deliver and then assess the evidence that they provide. We aim to ensure that projects which formally enter the programme are fully ready to deliver: taking time to get this right at this stage ensures good and timely delivery later on.

I aim to bring all authorities into the programme as soon as is practicable, provided they are ready to deliver. Consideration will also be given to starting follow-on projects where this is appropriate in the interests of good overall programme management, for instance where an authority already in the programme needs to maintain momentum, or where larger authorities need to have a manageable flow of projects over the whole programme.

Children: Internet

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what guidance his Department gives to schools and colleges on ways to promote online safety and security as part of information technology classes; [263937]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of courses on information technology in schools and colleges in promoting the safe and secure use of the internet; [263938]

(3) what information school pupils are given as part of classes on information technology on measures to protect their computer systems from external threats. [263939]

Jim Knight: As the Government's lead agency for technology in schools, Becta have provided advice to schools and colleges on issues of e-safety since 1998. This advice enables schools to assess pupils within their normal local and national practices—key stage tests and examinations.

The revised secondary curriculum level descriptors contain intrinsic references to e-safety in the ICT programme of study and there are also references in other curriculum areas, for example in Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHEE).

Becta is working with the QCA and Sir Jim Rose to ensure that the primary curriculum adequately reflects the skills, knowledge and understanding that children need to develop to stay safe online.

In addition, there are a number of freely available national resources for learners and teachers to develop skill and capability, for example, Childnet's know-it-all resources. The National Strategies have also recently developed new materials on e-safety; these materials have been distributed through local authorities and conferences and have been well received. The materials focus primarily on the more technical aspects of e-safety for example protecting data, understanding firewalls etc.

Ofsted have recently published the School Self Evaluation—A Response to the Byron Review which made reference to schools having good acceptable use policies. It highlighted the need for schools to be better at evaluating the effectiveness of these policies. Becta recently published its revised advice in relation to acceptable use policies to support schools and other institutions where children have access to technology in developing and evaluating good policies and practices.

Children: Protection

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on what date he received Lord Laming's report into safeguarding children. [263380]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 13 March 2009]:* Lord Laming submitted his progress report on the protection of children in England to the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on 10 March 2009.

Disadvantaged

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will take steps to assist small and medium-sized enterprises which work to improve the life prospects of disadvantaged young people over the age of 18. [263017]

Mr. Simon: I have been asked to reply.

We recognise that small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the third sector have a particular role as providers of learning to disadvantaged people, including disadvantaged young people.

DIUS is currently developing a Department wide Third Sector Strategy which will address how we work with the third sector across the range of our policies and programmes. We aim to ensure we make best use of the potential of the third sector to contribute to meeting our skills agenda through its ability to engage with disadvantaged groups.

To help ensure that the skills of people in the third sector are developed, DIUS, in conjunction with Office of the Third Sector, has supported the establishment of "Skills—Third Sector", a new sector skills body. Skills—Third Sector will work with employers in the sector to identify and meet learning needs of the sector and work to increase take-up of training.

DIUS is already supporting small and medium employers to meet the training needs of their staff in a range of ways:

In the White Paper "New Opportunities—Fair Chances for the Future" the Government have outlined a commitment to ensure young people who are persistent NEETs (not in education, employment or training) have the right support and incentives to move off benefits, or out of inactivity, into education, training or work. Part of our offer includes initiatives we are supporting through small and medium employers, such as local employment partnerships and apprenticeships, which we have reformed and expanded.

DIUS published "Skills for Life: Changing Lives" this month, which sets out our refreshed strategy for helping people at disadvantage through lack of basic skills. This strategy will ensure that SME employers and employees can access Skills for Life courses at all levels up to and including Level 2, and drive improvements in provision.

Train to Gain is the Government's flagship service for employers, including SMEs. Train to Gain provides learning opportunities for all employees, including those disadvantaged in the workplace. Train to Gain is available to employees and volunteers in the third sector. The new package announced for SMEs in October 2008 includes additional flexibilities for SMEs including bite size learning and funding for learners who already have qualifications. From December 2008 the new flexibilities for SMEs were available to all paid employees in third sector SMEs.

Faith Schools: Finance

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much religious bodies have spent in capital expenditure on voluntary aided schools of a religious character in each of the last five financial years; and how much such bodies have received from public funds as a contribution to such expenditure *(a)* up to and *(b)* over 90 per cent. of the total expenditure. [263010]

Jim Knight: The information set out in the table shows the amount of grant payable to the governing bodies of those voluntary aided schools with a religious character. Although most capital expenditure at voluntary aided schools requires a 10 per cent. contribution from their governing bodies, we do not have information relating to any other contributions made either by governing bodies or from any other source.

£000

	Amount paid up to 90 per cent.	*Amount paid 90-100 per cent.*
2004-05	450,580	57,292
2005-06	394,629	77,913
2006-07	500,022	125,501
2007-08	531,750	155,559
2008-09	506,131	184967
Total	2,383,112	601,232

Foreign Languages: GCE A-level

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils achieved an A level in a foreign language in each of the last 10 years. [247487]

Jim Knight: The information is provided in the table.

Number of A-level passes in modern foreign languages by 16-18 year-olds in all schools, 1999 to 2008

Subject	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
French	16,371	14,060	14,148	13,214	12,637	12,298	11,802	12,063	12,028	12,605
German	7,885	7,092	7,096	6,188	5,916	5,523	5,141	5,456	5,557	5,560
Spanish	4,323	4,207	4,174	4,314	4,434	4,576	4,883	5,148	5,431	5,728
Other modern languages	3,269	3,404	3,260	3,728	3,861	4,143	4,396	4,914	4,998	5,530
All modern languages	31,848	28,763	28,678	27,444	26,848	26,540	26,222	27,581	28,014	29,423

Note:
Figures are derived from the Achievement and Attainment Tables data. 'Other Modern Languages' include Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Dutch, Gujarati, Italian, Japanese, Panjabi, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Turkish and Urdu

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of schools had less than 30 per cent. of pupils obtaining five A* to C GCSEs including English and mathematics in 2008, broken down by index of multiple deprivation decile. [258958]

Jim Knight: The information requested is shown in the table:

Percentage of schools[1,2] where fewer than 30 per cent. of pupils[3] achieved five or more A-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and mathematics by IMD decile[4], 2007-08[5,6]*

IMD Decile[4]	*Percentage of schools where fewer than 30% of eligible pupils achieved 5+ A*-C at GCSE including English and Maths in 2007-08*
0-10[7]	36
10-20	31
20-30	23
30-40	16
40-50	14

Percentage of schools[1,2] where fewer than 30 per cent. of pupils[3] achieved five or more A-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and mathematics by IMD decile[4], 2007-08[5,6]*

IMD Decile[4]	*Percentage of schools where fewer than 30% of eligible pupils achieved 5+ A*-C at GCSE including English and Maths in 2007-08*
50-60	12
60-70	7
70-80	5
80-90	5
90-100[5]	2
Total	15

[1] Including only those maintained mainstream schools with results published in the 2008 Achievement and Attainment tables.
[2] Including City Technology Colleges and Academies. Excludes closed schools.
[3] Pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.
[4] 2007 Indices of Multiple Deprivation at Super Output Area level based on the location of the school.
[5] Most deprived
[6] Least deprived
Notes:
Figures are based on revised data.
Includes attempts and achievements in previous academic years.

Ofqual

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on what dates he or his Departmental officials have met *(a)* Ministers and officials of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, *(b)* members of the Risk and Regulation Advisory Council and *(c)* members of the Better Regulation Executive to assess the regulatory impact of the new qualifications regulator Ofqual; what data were considered on each occasion; and what conclusions were reached. [263795]

Jim Knight: Departmental officials met with members of the Better Regulation Executive to discuss the regulatory impact of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill, of which the provisions establishing Ofqual are a part, on 29 September 2008. The Better Regulation Executive saw a draft of the impact assessment for the Bill on 18 December 2008. The Bill itself, including the final version of the impact assessment, received Cabinet clearance in the normal way. There is no requirement to refer impact assessments to the Risk and Regulation Advisory Council. The impact assessment was published immediately after the publication of the Bill.

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on what dates his Department *(a)* consulted and *(b)* obtained information from awarding bodies to inform the impact assessment on Ofqual; and what representations were received from those bodies. [263885]

Jim Knight: The Department consulted widely on the proposals to establish a new regulator in December 2007 ("Confidence in Standards: Regulating and developing qualifications and assessment", DCSF/DIUS, Cm 7281). The consultation ended on 10 March 2008 and replies were received from a large number of awarding bodies, among others. A report summarising the outcome of that consultation exercise was published in June 2008 ("Confidence in Standards: Regulating and developing qualifications and assessment—Next steps"). Respondents were given a further opportunity to comment on the detail of Ofqual's enforcement powers in October 2008, and, again, a number of awarding bodies responded. My officials have had regular discussions with awarding bodies about a wide range of issues around the set-up of Ofqual and the Bill.

Parents: Training

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what training programmes are offered by the National Academy for Parenting Practitioners (NAPP); and how many people have undertaken training courses run by or on behalf of NAPP. [263949]

Beverley Hughes: The National Academy for Parenting Practitioners are offering training in a range of evidence-based training programmes, post training support for those delivering evidence-based training programmes and training in new QCF level 3 modular courses for practitioners unable to access the evidence-based training programme.

To date, the academy have trained 842 practitioners in evidence-based programmes, and 316 practitioners have been trained on modular training courses. The academy are on course to train 3,400 practitioners in evidence-based parenting programmes by the end of March 2010.

From April to December 2009, the academy will be offering a range of evidence-based training programmes including: Families and Schools Together (FAST); Family Links; Incredible Years; Mellow Parenting; Parenting Positively; Strengthening Families 10-14 (UK); Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities; and Triple P. However, the offer will be responsive to local demand and the academy has some flexibility to expand the range of programmes on offer.

Primary Education: Sutton

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what information his Department will require from the London Borough of Sutton to assess its need for emergency capital and revenue funding to meet an increase in demand for primary school places from 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [262125]

Jim Knight: The Department does not require additional information from Sutton but is awaiting the latest school census data to establish the latest trends in pupil numbers for all local authorities.

At the beginning of the three-year spending review period 2008-09 to 2010-11, the Department allocated devolved capital funding to Sutton and other local authorities for the whole period, on the basis of forecasts local authorities supplied to the Department. All basic need resources designated for additional pupil places are allocated at the beginning of the period so that authorities can plan ahead and the Department does not hold back additional funding to meet unexpected changes in demand. Where an increase in demand does arise, local authorities are expected to use their other capital allocations to help meet any shortfall.

We do not hold contingency revenue funding for additional primary school places. The organisation of a local authority's schools is for the authority to manage within the revenue and capital funding provided.

School revenue funding to local authorities is based on actual pupil numbers recorded in the January school census. For 2009-10, a local authority's funding will be based on pupil numbers from January 2009. As a result, increases in pupil numbers up to that point, will be reflected in the authority's funding. If pupil numbers in a local authority's schools increase by more than 2.5 per cent. between January and the start of the academic year in the September following, the authority automatically receives additional funding for each pupil above the 2.5 per cent. threshold.

The Department is working on means of taking account of projected demographic change in capital allocations for the year 2011-12 onwards.

Private Education: Greater London

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 11 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 688W, on private education: Greater London, what the equivalent figures are for 2008. [263413]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 13 March 2009]:* The requested information is shown in the table:

Independent schools[1]: number and percentage of pupils aged 5 to 10 and 11 to 15[2], position in January 2008, each London borough

	Pupils aged 5 to 10		Pupils aged 11 to 15	
	Number	Percentage[3]	Number	Percentage[3]
England	198,480	5.6	233,710	7.4
London	52,570	9.8	43,740	10.2
Inner London	26,800	13.4	20,020	13.9
Camden	3,570	28.9	1,820	19.2
City of London	410	69.4	1,110	100.0
Hackney	3,470	20.7	1,470	16.4
Hammersmith and Fulham	2,180	22.9	2,180	27.6
Haringey	840	4.9	980	8.0
Islington	270	2.4	150	1.9
Kensington and Chelsea	5,430	50.3	2,540	45.4
Lambeth	930	5.7	430	4.7
Lewisham	620	3.6	820	6.6
New ham	340	1.5	320	1.7
Southwark	1,430	7.7	2,330	15.8
Tower Hamlets	230	1.4	780	5.6
Wandsworth	4,390	25.0	2,380	19.4
Westminster	2,680	24.1	2,720	27.8
Outer London	25,780	7.6	23,720	8.3
Barking and Dagenham	60	0.4	10	0.1
Barnet	2,320	10.2	2,470	12.7
Bexley	520	3.1	0	0.0
Brent	750	3.9	730	4.8
Bromley	1,820	8.4	1,550	7.9
Croydon	2,350	9.2	2,970	13.5
Ealing	2,000	8.9	1,930	11.7
Enfield	900	3.9	430	2.2
Greenwich	1,140	6.6	1,030	7.8
Harrow	1,370	8.7	2,160	16.5
Havering	490	3.0	140	0.9
Hillingdon	1,620	8.1	1,370	8.2
Hounslow	640	4.2	300	2.2
Kingston upon Thames	1,310	12.8	1,540	17.0
Merton	1,630	13.0	1,220	13.3
Redbridge	2,150	10.2	830	4.8
Richmond upon Thames	3,410	24.6	3,620	34.0
Sutton	820	6.6	510	3.7

Independent schools[1]: number and percentage of pupils aged 5 to 10 and 11 to 15[2], position in January 2008, each London borough

	Pupils aged 5 to 10		Pupils aged 11 to 15	
	Number	Percentage[3]	Number	Percentage[3]
Waltham Forest	480	2.7	940	6.6

[1] Excludes city technology colleges and academies.
[2] Age as at 31 August in previous year (start of academic year).
[3] Number of pupils in independent schools expressed as a percentage of number of pupils in same age group across all schools (excludes dually registered pupils).
Note:
National and regional totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Schools: Assessments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment his Department has made of the merits to adding the two GCSE qualifications to its list of approved qualifications which it will fund maintained schools to deliver under section 96 of the Learning and Skills Act 2000; and if he will make a statement. [262828]

Jim Knight: To be considered for funding in maintained schools under Section 96 of the Learning and Skills Act 2000, qualifications must first be accredited by Ofqual, the independent qualifications regulator. International GCSEs (iGCSEs) have not been put forward for accreditation by either of the two awarding bodies which offer them, Edexel and Cambridge International Examinations. A number of Cambridge International Certificates, which are similar to iGCSEs, have however recently been accredited by Ofqual and submitted to my right hon. Friend for approval under Section 96. A decision will be made shortly.

Schools: Finance

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools with 30 per cent. or more of pupils eligible for free school meals ran a budget surplus in the last year for which data are available; and how much the surplus was in each case. [249123]

Jim Knight: The table to be placed in the House Libraries sets out the value of the budget surplus as at 31 March 2008, for those schools with more than 30 per cent. of their children known to be eligible for free school meals. Balances for all schools in England for the financial year 2007-08 were published on 24 February 2009 and I made a statement to the house on the same day. The full data are available at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/STR/d000834/index.shtml.

Schools: Hearing Impaired

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans his Department has to introduce pre-completion testing for acoustic conditions in schools that are required to comply with Building Bulletin 93. [263442]

Jim Knight: Building Bulletin 93 Acoustic Design of Schools states:

"To ensure that the performance standards are met, it is recommended that the client should include a requirement for acoustic testing in the building contract".

Testing is not however required for compliance with Part E of the Building Regulations.

For Building Schools for the Future Projects, Partnerships for Schools have included a clause in their Facilities and Services Output Specification, November 2008[1] which is currently out for consultation. This states:

"The contractor will complete a set of calculations to indicate compliance with BB93. Testing and remediation will be carried out to prove compliance."

In the current review of Building Bulletin 93, we are considering the possibility of strengthening the recommendation that all schools should be subjected to pre-completion testing.

[1] The PfS Facilities and Services Output Specification can be downloaded from:

http://www.partnershipsforschools.org.uk./library/bsf_standard_docs.jsp#OutputSpecification

Schools: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what mechanisms his Department uses to assess the overall quality of school provision in each local authority area; and if he will make a statement. [263459]

Jim Knight: Ofsted assesses the overall quality of school provision at local authority area level. Until 2008 it has done this within an annual performance assessment (APA) of children's services for each local authority, which includes a judgment on services for enjoying and achieving. From April 2009, APAs will be replaced by the new comprehensive area assessment (CAA), which will assess overall public services at local authority level. Ofsted will produce an annual rating for local authority children's services. This rating, drawing on inspection judgments and performance data on schools in the area, as well as on evidence on other local authority children's services, will be included in the CAA report.

Sefton

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1298-1300W, how many grants his Department has administered in Sefton in each year since 1995. [262948]

Jim Knight: The tables showing the grants allocated by the Department for Children, Schools and Families to Sefton for each year since 1995-96, broken down between revenue and capital funding, will be placed in the House Libraries.

The revenue grant totals for 2006-07 onwards are not comparable with figures in 2005-06 and before, because the introduction of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded for Education Services.

Before 2006-07 local authorities were funded through Education Formula Spending (EFS). This formed part of the annual Local Government Finance Settlement. EFS comprised school functions and local education authority (LEA) central functions, whereas DSG only covers the school functions. The DSG is based on each local authority's spend on schools in 2005-06, uprated each year for cost pressures and adjusted for changes in pupil numbers. LEA central functions are still funded through the Local Government Finance Settlement but cannot be separately identified. Consequently, there is a break in the Department's time series as the two sets of data are not comparable. For information, the EFS figures for Sefton for 1997-98 to 2005-06 were:

	£ million (cash)
1997-98	106.7
1998-99	116.5
1999-2000	122.2
2000-01	128.2
2001-02	132
2002-03	129.6
2003-04	139.6
2004-05	145.5
2005-06	151.2

Notes:
1. Equivalent data are not available prior to 1997-98.
2. Before 2003-04, called Education Standard Spending (ESS).
3. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of ESS/EFS settlements and exclude the pensions transfer to EFS and LSC.
4. Where responsibility for funding a school has transferred from an authority, related funding no longer appears in the series.

The Reducing Class Size revenue grants and the Nursery Education Grant were transferred to Education Formula Spending in 2003-04.

The Teachers Threshold and Performance Pay Grant was transferred to Dedicated Schools Grant in 2006-07.

Children's Services grant transferred to the Formula Grant paid by the Department for Communities and Local Government in 2008-09.

Capital figures include supported borrowing allocations. Allocations for targeted capital projects are shown in the year the project started.

The tables do not include children social care services grants before 2004-05 as responsibility for children social care services was transferred to this Department, from the Department of Health, in 2004-05.

The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) and the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) were established under Machinery of Government changes on 28 June 2007. The response only covers those areas of responsibility for children and schools held by their predecessor the Department for Education and Skills and the DCSF.

Special Educational Needs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1317W, on special educational needs, which 10 non-maintained special schools had 100 or more pupils. [262132]

Jim Knight: The information requested is shown in the table.

Non-maintained special schools with 100 or more pupils[1], position as at January 2008, England

LA number	*LA name*	*School name*
869	West Berkshire	Mary Hare Grammar School
936	Surrey	National Centre for Young People with Epilepsy, St. Piers School
392	North Tyneside	Percy Hedley School
886	Kent	Royal School for Deaf Children and Westgate College for Deaf People
878	Devon	West of England School
846	Brighton and Hove	St. John's School, Brighton
845	East Sussex	St. Mary's Westwood Children's Trust
850	Hampshire	Treloar School
831	Derby	Royal School for the Deaf, Derby
344	Wirral	West Kirby Residential School

[1] Excludes dually registered pupils.
Source:
School Census.

Teachers: Recruitment

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) when he expects the first teachers in his proposed fast-track route for career switchers as referred to on page 36 of Working together: public services on your side to begin their employment in schools; [263679]

(2) how many teachers he expects to be recruited under his proposed fast-track route for career switchers as referred to on page 36 of Working together: public services on your side. [263680]

Jim Knight: The details are still to be finalised but we anticipate that the first participants will be recruited and training in schools within the next year.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Charities: Finance

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what proportion of their funding charities need to receive from non-governmental sources in order to be designated as independent. [263370]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the commission to reply.

Letter from Andrew Hind, dated March 2009:

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Question on the proportion of its income a charity can derive from the state whilst maintaining its independence.

As the regulator, we see independence as key to charitable status. All charities must be independent of government and other funders, and the trustees of a charity are bound to act solely in the interests of the charity and its beneficiaries, complying with charity law and the requirements of the charity's governing document. It is for the trustees alone to decide on the most appropriate sources of funding for their charity, and this can include funding mainly or wholly provided by a public body.

Where a charity receives funding from a public body the trustees must be satisfied that this does not impede the charity's independence. We produce guidance for charity trustees on this subject and I have arranged for copies of:

CC37: Charities and public service delivery; and

RR7: Charities and independence from the state;

to be placed in the House of Commons Library.

If you would like to discuss this issue further I would be very happy to arrange a meeting for you with some of our senior staff who lead on this area of our work.

I hope this is helpful.

Civil Servants: Vacancies

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what job vacancies have been advertised on the *(a)* public version and *(b)* Civil Service-only version of the Civil Service Recruitment Gateway in the last 12 months; and what the (i) job specification, (ii) job title, (iii) sponsoring body and (iv) salary range of the position advertised was in each case; [249920]

(2) with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 25 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1184W, on civil servants: vacancies, what criteria are used to decide whether a vacancy is advertised on the public part of the Civil Service Recruitment Gateway or on the staff-only section; [249935]

(3) with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 25 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1184W, on civil servants: vacancies, whether an equality impact assessment has been made of the criteria used to decide whether a vacancy is advertised on the public part of the Civil Service Recruitment Gateway or the staff-only section; [249937]

(4) what procedures govern the advertisement of vacancies by *(a)* Government Departments, *(b)* Executive agencies and *(c)* non-departmental public bodies on the (i) publicly accessible and (ii) internal parts of the Civil Service Recruitment Gateway; [258602]

(5) what the Civil Service policy is on advertising Civil Service vacancies on the Civil Service Recruitment Gateway; [258610]

(6) pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 202, on public information, what progress has been made on improving access to vacancies for Civil Service jobs; [258620]

(7) with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 25 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1184W, on civil servants: vacancies, how many of the jobs advertised on the staff-only part of the Civil Service Recruitment Gateway were subsequently advertised on the public part of the site. [258657]

Mr. Watson: There is no policy requirement for Government Departments and Executive agencies to advertise their vacancies on the Recruitment Gateway. However, the expectation is that all civil service jobs should be advertised on the Gateway.

Government Departments and Executive agencies have delegated responsibility for recruitment advertising. Each Department determines its own policies on where they advertise their vacancies and have responsibility for assessing the equality impact of those policies.

Civil service vacancies are advertised internally first to surplus staff facing redundancy, in line with the "Protocol on Handling Surplus Staff", which came into effect on 1 April 2008. The civil service redeployment policy is comparable to the policies of other companies and organisations in handling surplus staff.

The Civil Service Recruitment Gateway has published a total of 8,456 vacancies in the past 12 months, of which, 4,474 were advertised to the general public and 3,982 within the civil service. Providing answers to the specific queries relating to each post and whether internal vacancies were subsequently advertised to the public can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

On 25 February a new Jobs Online site went live in Beta, which replaces the former Recruitment Gateway. This provides for external civil service jobs to be available in the one place and in a single format, easily accessible to jobseekers. As we develop the site, other organisations will all be able to link to the site and jobseekers will be able to quickly find individual jobs using search engines.

Civil Service Agencies: Expenditure

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was spent by executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies in *(a)* 1996-97 and *(b)* the most recent year for which figures are available. [258608]

Mr. Watson: Information on total expenditure by non-departmental public bodies is published in the annual Cabinet Office publication "Public Bodies". Copies of Public Bodies are available in the Libraries of the House.

Information is not held centrally on expenditure by executive agencies. This information is published in departmental annual reports or in individual bodies' annual reports and accounts.

Departmental Data Protection

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what period of time elapses before his Department's electronic records are *(a)* archived and *(b)* destroyed; and what percentage of such records created in (i) 2007 and (ii) 2008 have been destroyed. [259352]

Mr. Watson: Cabinet Office records are maintained in an electronic records management system and will either be (i) transferred to The National Archives in line with our statutory obligations, or (ii) deleted from the system in accordance with disposal and retention schedules currently being developed. No formal records were deleted in 2007 and 2008 although duplicates and user training examples were routinely removed.

Departmental Lost Property

John Mason: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what property has been lost or stolen from the Cabinet Office in the last 12 months; and what the estimated cost was of replacement of such property. [263123]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 715-6W, to the hon. Member for Chesterfield (Paul Holmes).

The estimated cost associated with items reported lost or stolen is £15,000.

Departmental Standards

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 475W, on departmental standards, what steps *(a)* his Department and *(b)* 10 Downing Street is taking to reduce levels of avoidable contact with members of the public. [258671]

Mr. Watson: The role of the Cabinet Office is to coordinate and monitor the work of departments in reducing avoidable contact associated with the delivery of their services to citizens and businesses.

Departmental Training

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the Cabinet Office has provided voice coaching to any of its employees in the last 12 months. [260453]

Mr. Watson: "Voice coaching" is not a category recognised in Cabinet Office management information systems.

Government Departments: Petitions

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will take steps to ensure Government departments respond to petitions in the same manner required of local authorities under the provisions of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill if enacted. [262617]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given in the other place to the noble Lord Greaves on 5 March 2009, *Official Report, House of Lords*, columns WA 182-3.

Infant Mortality

Anne Milton: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* stillbirths and *(b)* neonatal deaths there were in each primary care trust area in each of the last five years. [263572]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many (a) stillbirths and (b) neonatal deaths there were in each primary care trust area in each of the last five years. (263572)

In England there are 147 primary care trusts, four care trusts and one care trust plus. Together they are referred to as primary care organisations (PCOs). Figures have been provided for all 152 primary care organisations.

The number of (a) stillbirths and (b) neonatal deaths by each primary care organisation that were registered in each of the last five years, 2003 to 2007 (the most recent year for which figures are available) is given in the tables. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

Anne Milton: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the infant mortality rate in babies born to mothers *(a)* under 14, *(b)* under 16, *(c)* under 21, *(d)* under 30 and *(e)* over 30 years was in each of the last five years. [263577]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the infant mortality rate in babies born to mothers (a) under 14, (b) under 16, (c) under 21, (d) under 30 and (e) over 30 years of age in each of the last five years is. (263577)

The infant mortality rate in babies born to mothers (a) under 14, (b) under 16, (c) under 21, (d) under 30 and (e) 30 years of age and over in each of the last five years, 2003 to 2007 (the most recent year for which figures are available) is given in the attached table.

Infant mortality rate in babies born to mothers (a) under 14, (b) under 16, (c) under 21, (d) under 30 and (e) 30 years of age and over, England and Wales, 2003-07[1]

	Age of mother					
	Under 14	*Under 16*	*Under 21*	*Under 30*	*30 and over*	*All ages*
2003	[2]...	8.0	7.3	5.8	4.6	5.2
2004	[2]...	13.1	7.2	5.3	4.5	4.9
2005	[2]...	13.5	6.4	5.5	4.4	5.0
2006	[2]...	8.1	6.4	5.6	4.3	4.9
2007[1]	[2]...	6.2	6.9	5.0	4.2	4.6

[1] Data for 2007 are provisional.
[2] Rates based on less than three events have been suppressed to protect confidentiality of individuals.

Lung Cancer: Cumbria

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland constituency were diagnosed with lung cancer in each of the last five years. [263803]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people in (a) Cumbria and (b) Copeland had been diagnosed with lung cancer in each of the last five years. [263803]

The latest available figures for newly diagnosed cases of cancer (incidence) are for the year 2006. Numbers of newly diagnosed cases of lung cancer in each calendar year since 2002 for people in (a) Cumbria county and (b) Copeland local authority are in Table 1.

Table 1. Registrations of newly diagnosed cases of lung cancer[1], persons, Cumbria county and Copeland local authority, 2002 to 2006

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Cumbria	334	351	315	351	347
Copeland	36	52	41	45	48

[1] Lung cancer is coded to C34 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10).
Source:
Office for National Statistics

National Enterprise Academy

Tony Baldry: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what arrangements the Cabinet Office has put in place for people in Oxfordshire to access the National Enterprise Academy. [262950]

Mr. Simon: I have been asked to reply.

The National Enterprise Academy is one of the newest of a growing network of National Skills Academies, which enable employers to take control of the design and delivery of learning in their sector. The NSA plan to transform enterprise education and training for young people.

The National Enterprise Academy was approved to enter the National Skills Academy business planning process in October 2008. The Learning and Skills Council expect to receive a business plan for appraisal within the next few months. Subject to approval, initial plans are to establish the National Centre and regional hub for the South East in Buckinghamshire with effect from September 2009. The academy will then develop a further nine regional hubs across England by March 2012, making provision available to students across their region.

Unemployment: Cumbria

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate his Department made of the number of people registered as unemployed in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland constituency who were parents returning to work after caring for children in each of the last five years. [263790]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking for the number of people registered as unemployed in (a) Cumbria and (b) Copeland constituency who were parents returning to work after raising a family, in each of the last five years. (263790)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles statistics on registered unemployment from the count of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance. However, this source does not hold information on whether claimants were raising a family prior to claiming.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people registered as unemployed in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland constituency had been out of work for 12 months or more in each of the last five years. [263796]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking how many people under the age of 21 were registered as unemployed in (a) Cumbria and (b) Copeland constituency in each of the last five years (263793); and how many registered unemployed people in (a) Cumbria and (b) Copeland constituency had been out of work for 12 months or more in each of the last five years. (263796)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles statistics on registered unemployed from the count of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA). However, statistics are not available for persons under the age of 21. As an alternative, Table 1 shows the number of persons claiming JSA under the age of 20 resident in Copeland constituency and Cumbria.

Table 2 shows the number of persons claiming JSA for more than 12 months resident in Copeland and Cumbria.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available of the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1. Number of persons aged under 20 claiming jobseeker's allowance resident in Copeland constituency and Cumbria

As at January each year	*Copeland*	*Cumbria*
2004	192	800
2005	185	729
2006	173	815
2007	181	797
2008	180	703
2009	177	900

Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative system

Table 2. Number of persons claiming jobseeker's allowance for more than 12 months resident in Copeland constituency and Cumbria

As at January each year	*Copeland*	*Cumbria*
2004	185	674
2005	207	595
2006	224	782
2007	236	918
2008	125	469
2009	114	485

Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative system

Voluntary Organisations: Bank Services

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate his Department has made of the funds deposited in Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander bank by each third sector organisation with funds invested in the bank which is not covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [264157]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 5 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 492-3W, to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude). The Department is working with partners in the third sector to understand the impact of the administration process of Kaupthing, Singer Friedlander on third sector organisations.

Voluntary Work

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the number of people who have volunteered in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [263873]

Kevin Brennan: Data from the Government's Citizenship Survey estimates that the following numbers of adults aged 16 and above volunteered at least once in the previous 12 months:

Formal volunteering

	Number
2003	16,953,000
2005	17,980,000
2007-08	17,704,000

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Adult Education

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects of age discrimination legislation on the numbers of people from each age group taking part in adult education courses. [261829]

Mr. Simon: Adult learning is crucial in helping people to fulfil themselves as active citizens and as members of their families and communities. We are committed to ensuring that everyone, whatever their age or background, can lead healthy and fulfilling lives by participating fully in work, education and society as a whole. Building on the findings of our recent consultation, we are now working with partners to develop our strategy for Informal Adult Learning in the 21st century, which we shall publish shortly.

The Department does not routinely monitor or enforce the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006 and has no express remit to do so. The regulations apply to providers and they must make decisions based on their own circumstances, the courses they run and their own legal advice. Ultimately, interpretation and enforcement will be for the courts to decide. Detailed guidance for the benefit of providers and learners alike is set out on the website of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

I am aware that a number of providers, including further education colleges and local authorities, have been withdrawing fee concessions for older learners in the belief that the Regulations prohibit such positive action. The guidance makes clear that age-related practices like fee concessions may be objectively justified where they are a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim and it will continue to be the learning provider's decision as to whether or not they wish to offer these subsidies to individuals. I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 990W.

Adult Education: Public Consultation

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department, its predecessor and agencies have spent on the Impact of Skills for Life Learning Evaluation: Longitudinal Survey of Learners to date. [262409]

Mr. Simon: The Department and its predecessor has spent, in total to date, £1,853,097 on the evaluation of the "Impact of Skills for Life Learning" initiative.

Animal Experiments

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what funding his Department has provided for the National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs) in each year since its creation; what funding he has allocated to the NC3Rs for each of the next two years; what recent discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials in his Department have had with the NC3Rs on funding levels; and if he will make a statement. [263283]

Mr. Lammy: The Government established the National Centre for Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs) in 2004 for research into alternatives to the use of animals in research. The NC3Rs receives funding from the Department through the Medical Research Council (MRC) and the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC). Since its launch, the MRC and BBSRC have provided the NC3RS with £661,000 in 2004/05, £667,000 in 2005/06, £1,829,000 in 2006/07 and £2,368,000 in 2007/08. The two research councils have allocated the NC3Rs £3,468,000 in 2008/09, £4,268,000 in 2009/10 and £5,068,000 in 2010/11. The Secretary of State, other DIUS Ministers and DIUS officials have not held any recent discussions with the NC3Rs regarding funding levels. Future funding for the NC3Rs will be discussed in the context of the next spending review.

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills with reference to the answer of 22 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 392W, on apprentices, what progress has been made on the establishment of apprenticeships in his Department; and how many apprentices his Department employed at the latest date for which figures are available. [252080]

Mr. Simon: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 741W.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which 10 *(a)* companies and *(b)* trades have provided the largest number of apprenticeships in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008. [254166]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 3 February 2009]:* Table 1 shows the 10 sector frameworks that have provided the largest number of apprenticeships in 2005/06, 2006/07 and 2007/08. This information was published in supplementary tables that accompanied the post-16 education statistical first release on 18 December 2008.

Information about companies providing apprenticeships is not currently available.

Top 10 sector frameworks that provided the largest number of apprenticeship starts

2005/06

	Apprenticeship starts
Customer service	15,700
Construction	13,500
Hospitality and catering	15,300
Business administration	15,100

Top 10 sector frameworks that provided the largest number of apprenticeship starts

2005/06

	Apprenticeship starts
Hairdressing	14,900
Children's care learning and development	12,300
Engineering	11,500
Health and social care	8,200
Retail	7,300
Vehicle maintenance and repair	6,700

2006/07

	Apprenticeship starts
Construction	20,700
Hairdressing	17,000
Business administration	15,500
Customer service	15,200
Children's care learning and development	13,200
Hospitality and catering	13,200
Engineering	11,600
Vehicle maintenance and repair	8,800
Retail	8,100
Health and social are	7,400

2007/08

	Apprenticeship starts
Customer service	21,000
Construction	20,400
Business administration	18,100
Hairdressing	16,500
Children's care learning and development	15,300
Hospitality and catering	14,900
Engineering	13,900
Health and social care	12,500
Vehicle maintenance and repair	12,500
Retail	11,800

Notes:
1. Volumes are rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. This table uses programme starts as a measure for comparative purposes. Full-year numbers are a count of the number of starts at any point during the year. Learners starting more than one course will appear more than once.
3. Programme-Led Apprenticeships recorded in WBL ILR returns are included in the above figures.

Source:
Work based Learning Individualised Learner Record

The Government are committed to rebuilding apprenticeships. Since 1997 we have witnessed a renaissance in apprenticeships from a low point of 65,000 to a record 225,000 apprenticeship starts in 2007/08. Completion rates are also at a record high with 64 per cent. successfully completing an apprenticeship—up from 37 per cent. in 2004/05.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many apprenticeships have been *(a)* advertised and *(b)* filled through the National Apprenticeship Vacancy Matching Service in 2009 to date. [261828]

Mr. Simon: The National Apprenticeships Vacancy Matching Service has been developed to provide a high quality service to employers wishing to recruit apprentices, and to young people and adults considering an apprenticeship. This service will help deliver the objective outlined in world-class apprenticeships to expand and improve the quality of our Apprenticeships programme. On the 4 March 2009, 3,755 vacancies were live on the system. In these early weeks since the system went live on the 12 January 2009, we have had confirmation from employers that 22 vacancies have already been filled via this service. Interest from individuals is high and since the national launch of the online vacancy matching system 26,035 people have registered as candidates to use the system. The system is not due to be fully open until 1 April.

Apprentices: Greater Manchester

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many adult apprentices there are in each of the 10 local authority areas which make up the Greater Manchester area. [262279]

Mr. Simon: The following table shows the number of apprentice starts and completions in 2007/08 in the 10 Greater Manchester local authorities, broken down by age.

Apprenticeship starts and completions in 2007/08, in the 10 Greater Manchester local authorities by age

	Starts			*Completions*		
Local authority	*under 19*	*19+*	*Total*	*under 19*	*19+*	*Total*
Manchester	650	770	1,420	350	340	690
Bolton	890	740	1,630	520	350	860
Bury	410	470	880	240	220	460
Oldham	610	470	1,080	430	270	700
Rochdale	520	510	1,040	310	290	590
Salford	620	470	1,090	370	240	610
Stockport	640	550	1,190	440	310	750
Tameside	680	530	1,210	380	240	620
Trafford	460	410	870	260	190	440
Wigan	1,090	950	2,040	570	380	950

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Totals are based on unrounded figures, so may not equal the sum of figures shown.
3. Local authority is based on home postcode of the learner.

Source:
WBL ILR

Apprentices: North East

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which *(a)* companies and *(b)* industrial trades have provided the largest number of apprenticeships in (i) 2006, (ii) 2007 and (iii) 2008 in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [260792]

Mr. Simon: The following table shows the 10 sector frameworks that have provided the largest number of apprenticeship starts in each academic year, from 2005/06 to 2007/08, for Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency.

Information about companies providing apprenticeships is not currently available.

Top 10 apprenticeship frameworks that provided the largest number of starts Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland parliamentary constituency

	Framework	Number of starts
	2005/06	
1	Business Administration	60
2	Construction	60
3	Children's Care Learning and Development	50
4	Retail	40
5	Hairdressing	30
6	Customer Service	30
7	Engineering	30
8	Health and Social Care	30
9	Hospitality and Catering	20
10	Vehicle Maintenance and Repair	20
	2006/07	
1	Business Administration	70
2	Construction	70
3	Engineering	60
4	Children's Care Learning and Development	50
5	Hairdressing	50
6	Customer Service	40
7	Vehicle Maintenance and Repair	30
8	Health and Social Care	20
9	Plumbing	20
10	Retail	20
	2007-08	
1	Business Administration	70
2	Construction	70
3	Health and Social Care	60
4	Hairdressing	50
5	Children's Care Learning and Development	50
6	Customer Service	40
7	Engineering	30
8	Retail	30
9	Vehicle Maintenance and Repair	30
10	Plumbing	20

Notes:
1. Volumes are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures in table include Work Based Learning (WBL) (apprenticeships only).
3. Programme-Led apprenticeships recorded in WBL ILR returns are included in the above figures.
4. Parliamentary constituency is based upon the home postcode of the learner.
5. This table uses programme starts as a measure for comparative purposes. Full-year numbers are a count of the number of starts at any point during the year. Learners starting more than one course will appear more than once.

Source:
Work Based Learning (WBL) Individualised Learner Record

The Government are committed to rebuilding apprenticeships. Since 1997 we have witnessed a renaissance in apprenticeships from a low point of 65,000 to a record 225,000 apprenticeship starts in 2007/08. Completion rates are also at a record high with 64 per cent. successfully completing an apprenticeship—up from 37 per cent. in 2004/05.

Education: Offenders

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much the Offender Learning and Skills Service has spent on training opportunities available in *(a)* probation centres and *(b)* other institutions in each year for which figures are available; and how much it plans to spend in each of the next two years. [263095]

Mr. Simon: The Offender Learning and Skills Service was introduced across England from August 2006, part way through the 2006/07 financial year. In financial year 2006-07 and 2007-08 the Offender Learning and Skills Service budget for offenders in the community was £9.5 million and £9.2 million respectively, resources flowing from the previous spending round focused on enhancing the delivery of "Skills for Life" to offenders in the community. From the start of the 2008-09 financial year, the learning needs of offenders in the community have been met from the Learning and Skills Council's mainstream learning budgets.

It is not possible to determine what proportion of this budget was spent in probation centres and what proportion elsewhere.

The Offender Learning and Skills Service budget in 2006-07 for delivery to young offenders aged 17 and under and for adult prisoners was £98.4 million, in 2007-08 the equivalent budget was £155.4 million and in 2008-09 was £161.7 million. This Department's planned expenditure through the Offender Learning and Skills Service for 2009-10 is £132.3 million.

This figure does not include funding from the Department for Children, Schools and Families in respect of young offenders aged 17 and under, and will be subject to additional allocations for learning delivery resulting from the Ministry of Justice's expansion of prison places.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many learner places were funded by the Offender Learning and Skills Service in *(a)* probation centres and *(b)* other institutions in each year for which figures are available. [263096]

Mr. Simon: The Offender Learning and Skills Service was introduced across England from the start of the 2006/07 academic year.

The Offender Learning and Skills Service is focused on learners in prison. We had an additional budget of £9.5 million in 2006-07 and £9.2 million in 2007-08 to boost participation for offenders serving community sentences, mostly for Skills for Life. But as this was mainstream learning we have no data on the number of enrolments by offenders in the community, either in probation centres or in mainstream learning.

The Offender Learning and Skills Service funded a total of 240,045 enrolments in 2006/07 and 299,939 in 2007/08 in prisons and young offender institutions.

Further Education: Finance

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will take steps to ensure the continuation of the capital funding programme for further education colleges. [263827]

Mr. Simon: Since 1997 more than £2 billion has been invested in modernising further education facilities and we will spend another £2.3 billion in the current spending review period.

This Government have already confirmed their intention that the current Further education capital programme will continue after 2010-11 under the management of the new Skills Funding Agency. The amount of funding available will depend upon the outcome of Government's next spending review.

Higher Education: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of young people living in Enfield North constituency entered *(a)* higher education and *(b)* university in each of the last 11 years. [263915]

Mr. Lammy: It is not possible to identify young people from Enfield, North who did not enter HE, therefore the percentage of young people from Enfield, North who entered HE cannot be calculated.

The number of young undergraduate entrants from Enfield, North is shown as an alternative. Figures for the 2008/09 academic year will be available in January 2010.

Young[1] undergraduate entrants[2] from Enfield, North parliamentary constituency[3] by institution type UK higher education institutions[4]—academic years 1997/98 to 2007/08

Academic year	*All HEIs[5]*	*Of which: Universities[6]*
1997/98	305	280
1998/99	305	280
1999/2000	330	295
2000/01	365	325
2001/02	375	345
2002/03	435	400
2003/04	430	390
2004/05	515	490
2005/06	550	510
2006/07	545	515
2007/08	550	515

[1] Young refers to undergraduates aged under 21.
[2] Covers entrants to both full-time and part-time undergraduate courses.
[3] Parliamentary constituency is defined by full and valid home postcodes.
[4] Excludes the Open University due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants over the time series.
[5] All HEIs includes pre and post 1992 universities, HE colleges and independent HEIs.
[6] Universities include both pre and post 1992 universities.
Note:
Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December and have been rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Overseas Students

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of the annual income of each university in England came from foreign students in each of the last 10 years. [259143]

Mr. Lammy: Information on course fees paid by non-EU domiciled students is shown in the tables, which will be placed in the House Libraries. This is the only centrally-held information available regarding institutions' income from foreign students. This is shown as a proportion of the total income of each higher education institution in England. Figures for the 1997/98 academic year are not available.

The increase in non-EU student recruitment in the last 10 years demonstrates the growing international reputation of UK universities and should be welcomed. It is important to stress that this growth has not been at the expense of UK students. Non-EU students attract no HEFCE funding and do not have access to the student finance package.

Students: Loans

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Student Loans Company in reclaiming student loans from EU students who studied in the UK. [260696]

Mr. Lammy: Tuition fee loans have been available for EU students since 2006/07. The majority of these students will commence their repayments from April 2010, provided that their income is above the appropriate threshold. The SLC is putting new systems in place from July 2009 in plenty of time to collect those repayments.

A small number of EU students who dropped out or took short courses are eligible to repay now. SLC has set up a special team to follow up these early repayers, and is in the process of taking nine borrowers to court.

The overwhelming majority of overseas borrowers are honest and want to repay the loans they have received. We are determined, though, that taxpayers' money will be repaid, and the SLC will be vigorous in pursuing those who try to dodge the system.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many full-time undergraduates received *(a)* a maintenance loan and *(b)* a tuition fee loan in each year since 2001. [261910]

Mr. Lammy: The number of full-time undergraduate English domiciled students studying in the UK and EU students studying in England who took out a maintenance loan and a tuition fee loan are shown in table 4A and table 4B respectively of the Statistical First Release on Student Support for Higher Education in England, Academic Year 2008/09 (provisional). The SFR is accessible at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000824/index.shtml

Amended tables are shown as follows for ease of use. Tuition fee loans were introduced in September 2006 thus figures are given for the period since then.

Table 4A : Estimated eligibility and take-up of maintenance loans in England[1]—academic years 2001/02 to 2008/09 (provisional)

Academic year	*Number of loans taken out (thousand)[2]*
2001/02	629
2002/03	666
2003/04	682
2004/05	693.1
2005/06	719.1
2006/07	728.1
2007/08 (provisional)[3]	746.2
2008/09 (provisional)[3, 4]	714.3

[1] Student loans are available to eligible students normally domiciled in the United Kingdom.
[2] Rounded to the nearest £10.
[3] The number of loans taken out for 2008/09 is based on the number of loans approved as at 5 November 2008.
[4] The numbers will increase as late applications come in and this may change the average value of loan.
Source:
Student Loans Company Ltd. (SLC); DIUS

Table 4B : Take-up of tuition fee loans in England[1,2]—academic years 2006/07 through 2008/09 (provisional)

Academic year	*Number of loans taken out (thousand)[4]*
Students entering HE prior to 2006/07[3]	
2006/07	157.9
2007/08 (provisional)	99.1
2008/09 (provisional)[5]	31.2
Students entering HE from 2006/07[6]	
2006/07	239.4
2007/08 (provisional)	454.5
2008/09 (provisional)[5]	682.5

[1] Tuition fee loans are provided by DIUS via the Student Loans Company to students normally domiciled in England who attend an HE course anywhere in the United Kingdom as well as to students from the European Union attending HE courses in England.
[2] Students entering HE from 2006/07 can take out a Tuition Fee loan to cover all or part of the variable fee charged by their HEI.
[3] Students entering HE prior to 2006/07 can take out a Tuition Fee loan to cover their private contribution to fees if they make any.
[4] The number of loans taken out for 2008/09 is based on the number of loans approved as at 16 November 20008. The numbers will increase as late applications come in and this may change the average value of loan.
[5] The Tuition Fee loans for 2008/09 will be incurred by students at the point of payment to their HE institution. 50 per cent. will be paid in February 2009. 50 per cent. will be paid in May 2009.
[6] The figures for EU students are released early in the application process. Hence, these provisional figures are significantly lower than the likely final outturn.
Note:
Rounded to the nearest £10.
Source:
Student Loans Company Ltd. (SLC)

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) if he will review the interest rate charged on mortgage-style student loans in order to reduce the level of interest payments; [263481]

(2) what the interest rate on mortgage-style student loans has been in each year since 1998. [263542]

Mr. Lammy: The interest rate to be charged on mortgage-style student loans is set out in the Education (Student Loans) Act 1990 and the Education (Student Loans) Regulations 1998, which provide for a link to the retail price index (RPI). Specifically, the interest rate for an academic year is the annual movement in the RPI for the year to the previous March. Thus, the interest rate of 3.8 per cent. for the 2008/09 academic year reflects movements in the RPI for the year to March 2008.

The interest rate for the 2009/10 academic year, starting in September 2009, will reflect the RPI for the year to March 2009. Consistent application of the RPI meets the intention that, in fairness both to the borrower and to the taxpayer, over the lifetime of the loan, the borrower will repay in real terms no more than was borrowed.

The interest rates applicable to mortgage-style loans for each academic year since 1998 are as follows:

	Percentage
1998	3.5
1999	2.1
2000	2.6
2001	2.3
2002	1.3
2003	3.1
2004	2.6
2005	3.2
2006	2.4
2007	4.3
2008	3.8

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many former students have *(a)* mortgage-style repayment student loans and *(b)* income-related repayment student loans; and how many such repayments (i) are and (ii) are not being made on schedule in each case. [264113]

Mr. Lammy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the then Minister of State for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education on 10 September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1939-41W. The response remains the same because the information published in the answer to the previous question (PQ 220225) is based on the Statistical First Release on Student Loans for Higher Education in England, Financial Year 2007-08 (provisional) which remains the latest published information available. The SFR is accessible at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000797/index.shtml

Vocational Training

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many businesses in *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency, *(b)* London and *(c)* England have signed the skills pledge. [261807]

Mr. Simon: The Skills Pledge is a voluntary, public commitment by employers to support their employees to develop their basic skills, including literacy and numeracy, and work towards relevant, valuable qualifications to at least Level 2 (equivalent to five good GCSEs).

Since the launch of the Skills Pledge in June 2007 we have made excellent progress. The latest available figures up until December 2008, show that 13 organisations in the West Chelmsford constituency, 2,141 organisations in the London LSC region and 11,266 organisations in England have made the Skills Pledge. Please note that these figures include both public and private organisations.

Vocational Training: Finance

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many vocational training courses in *(a)* dance, *(b)* hairdressing, *(c)* food processing (wine), *(d)* aromatherapy, *(e)* ear-piercing and *(f)* beauty treatment received funding from his Department in 2008. [264022]

Mr. Simon: As announced through the Government's Grant Letter to the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) on 18 November, funding for adult learning will be £3.3 billion in 2009-10, an increase of 4.2 per cent. compared with 2008-09.

FE Colleges and providers are given indicative budgets based on the expected delivery of an overall volume of learning. The actual numbers and types of courses delivered by a college or provider will depend on learner and employer demand. The Statistical First Release (SFR) "DIUS: Post-16 Education: Learner Participation and Outcomes in England 2007/08" (December 2008) provides information on the number of LSC funded learners in particular sectors, however information on the number of different courses funded in a given year is not collected. The SFR can be found at the following link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000825/index.shtml

Vocational Training: Young People

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will take steps to assist those small and medium-sized enterprises which work with disadvantaged young people over the age of 18 years to improve their life prospects. [263016]

Mr. Simon: We recognise that small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the third sector have a particular role as providers of learning to disadvantaged people, including disadvantaged young people.

DIUS is currently developing a Department wide Third Sector Strategy which will address how we work with the third sector across the range of our policies and programmes. We aim to ensure we make best use of the potential of the third sector to contribute to meeting our skills agenda through its ability to engage with disadvantaged groups.

To help ensure that the skills of people in the third sector are developed, DIUS, in conjunction with Office of the Third Sector, has supported the establishment of "Skills—Third Sector", a new sector skills body. Skills—Third Sector will work with employers in the sector to identify and meet learning needs of the sector and work to increase take-up of training.

DIUS is already supporting small and medium employers to meet the training needs of their staff in a range of ways:

In the White Paper "New Opportunities—Fair Chances for the Future" the Government have outlined a commitment to ensure young people who are persistent NEETs (not in education, employment or training) have the right support and incentives to move off benefits, or out of inactivity, into education, training or work. Part of our offer includes initiatives we are supporting through small and medium employers, such as local employment partnerships and apprenticeships, which we have reformed and expanded.

DIUS published "Skills for Life: Changing Lives" this month, which sets out our refreshed strategy for helping people at disadvantage through lack of basic skills. This strategy will ensure that SME employers and employees can access Skills for Life courses at all levels up to and including Level 2, and drive improvements in provision.

Train to Gain is the Government's flagship service for employers, including SMEs. Train to Gain provides learning opportunities for all employees, including those disadvantaged in the workplace. Train to Gain is available to employees and volunteers in the third sector. The new package announced for SMEs in October 2008 includes additional flexibilities for SMEs including bite size learning and funding for learners who already have qualifications. From December 2008 the new flexibilities for SMEs were available to all paid employees in third sector SMEs.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Anti-Semitism: Children

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 2 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1253W, on anti-Semitism: children, if she will make it her policy to record the circumstances behind each such case; and if she will make a statement. [263259]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government intend to introduce a new statutory duty on schools to record all incidents of bullying between pupils. We are planning to launch a full public consultation in May on draft regulations, and will be consulting on making it compulsory for incidents of bullying to be recorded by type, as related to race, religion, ethnicity, gender, sexuality etc.

Anti-Semitism: Greater London

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of anti-Semitic attacks in London in each of the last five years; and what steps she is taking to combat anti-Semitic attacks. [256397]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The statistics collected centrally in relation to religious or racially motivated offences do not include information that would allow the separate identification of offences committed against the Jewish community. This information could therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost. Work on tackling anti-Semitic attacks forms part of the overall cross-government action on hate crime and will be reflected in the cross-governmental Hate Crime strategy that we are committed to producing.

Antisocial Behaviour: Alcoholic Drinks

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been issued with penalty notices for disorder for being drunk and disorderly in each of the last three years. [262468]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The number of people that have been issued with penalty notices for disorder for being drunk and disorderly in England and Wales from 2005 to 2007 can be found in the following table.

Number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued for being drunk and disorderly, England and Wales, 2005 to 2007, broken down by age, sex and police force area[1]

		2005		2006		2007	
Force	*Age*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
Avon and Somerset	16-17	7	—	11	1	10	1
	18-20	70	11	57	5	58	10
	21 and over	221	69	138	31	161	25
	Total	298	80	206	37	229	36
Bedfordshire	16-17	14	4	12	3	10	2
	18-20	54	10	57	12	42	4
	21 and over	194	32	191	29	184	23
	Total	262	46	260	44	236	29
British Transport Police[1]	16-17	—	—	7	2	29	2
	18-20	—	—	73	4	94	7
	21 and over	—	—	457	58	653	85
	Total			537	64	776	94
Cambridgeshire	16-17	15	1	14	—	18	3
	18-20	81	21	59	12	84	11
	21 and over	285	44	237	39	278	34
	Total	381	66	310	51	380	48
Cheshire	16-17	13	4	7	2	25	3
	18-20	32	2	17	6	120	22
	21 and over	126	26	68	29	358	77
	Total	171	32	92	37	503	102
City of London	16-17	3	—	—	—	1	—
	18-20	11	—	18	1	21	5
	21 and over	93	6	172	13	230	27
	Total	107	6	190	14	252	32
Cleveland	16-17	42	19	20	3	31	12
	18-20	170	30	66	13	112	18
	21 and over	384	77	165	29	290	83
	Total	596	126	251	45	433	113
Cumbria	16-17	50	12	46	12	12	3
	18-20	168	31	164	33	178	21
	21 and over	337	80	367	95	430	96
	Total	555	123	577	140	620	120
Derbyshire	16-17	50	10	51	13	53	12
	18-20	133	17	147	22	180	23
	21 and over	281	80	363	84	428	85
	Total	464	107	561	119	661	120
Devon and Cornwall	16-17	67	17	91	26	78	14
	18-20	339	56	504	62	453	60
	21 and over	1,049	186	1,218	223	969	168
	Total	1,455	259	1,813	311	1,500	242
Dorset	16-17	4	—	5	4	13	1
	18-20	26	7	54	2	42	5
	21 and over	82	10	102	12	130	16
	Total	112	17	161	18	185	22
Durham	16-17	8	2	5	1	4	—

Number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued for being drunk and disorderly, England and Wales, 2005 to 2007, broken down by age, sex and police force area[1]

		2005		2006		2007	
Force	*Age*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
	18-20	234	40	139	39	240	37
	21 and over	398	101	297	61	496	125
	Total	640	143	441	101	740	162
Essex	16-17	39	6	40	10	22	2
	18-20	139	22	185	27	91	14
	21 and over	403	63	551	92	293	56
	Total	581	91	776	129	406	72
Gloucestershire	16-17	14	1	10	4	10	4
	18-20	51	13	34	7	22	5
	21 and over	229	43	132	29	88	11
	Total	294	57	176	40	120	20
Greater Manchester	16-17	36	9	26	6	24	12
	18-20	108	14	58	7	68	16
	21 and over	330	76	210	41	231	44
	Total	474	99	294	54	323	72
Hampshire	16-17	63	6	17	7	18	6
	18-20	247	22	122	17	148	21
	21 and over	604	104	370	45	346	46
	Total	914	132	509	69	512	73
Hertfordshire	16-17	24	7	20	4	21	2
	18-20	95	11	42	7	80	14
	21 and over	183	29	137	25	145	26
	Total	302	47	199	36	246	42
Humberside	16-17	46	8	56	19	42	11
	18-20	155	24	224	37	151	21
	21 and over	378	73	599	81	385	65
	Total	579	105	879	137	578	97
Kent	16-17	102	19	111	27	125	29
	18-20	390	46	400	53	514	66
	21 and over	868	178	1,120	208	1,289	244
	Total	1,360	243	1,631	288	1,928	339
Lancashire	16-17	330	84	379	107	426	126
	18-20	992	128	1,043	183	1,188	227
	21 and over	2,684	538	2,733	550	3,181	750
	Total	4,006	750	4,155	840	4,795	1,103
Leicestershire	16-17	4	—	1	—	7	3
	18-20	22	4	12	1	81	10
	21 and over	54	7	56	7	293	36
	Total	80	11	69	8	381	49
Lincolnshire	16-17	5	1	11	—	5	—
	18-20	21	3	19	4	15	2
	21 and over	42	6	53	11	51	4

Number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued for being drunk and disorderly, England and Wales, 2005 to 2007, broken down by age, sex and police force area[1]

		2005		2006		2007	
Force	*Age*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
	Total	68	10	83	15	71	6
Merseyside	16-17	268	74	267	88	248	74
	18-20	772	124	681	118	725	136
	21 and over	1,999	437	1,801	398	2,243	469
	Total	3,039	635	2,749	604	3,216	679
Metropolitan Police	16-17	80	13	67	20	68	16
	18-20	468	48	404	59	372	66
	21 and over	2,895	484	2,806	448	2,572	400
	Total	3,443	545	3,277	527	3,012	482
Norfolk	16-17	5	1	1	—	8	—
	18-20	24	4	19	4	62	7
	21 and over	95	20	74	16	184	23
	Total	124	25	94	20	254	30
Northamptonshire	16-17	40	12	44	14	17	2
	18-20	150	26	126	7	78	11
	21 and over	367	62	310	61	222	26
	Total	557	100	480	82	317	39
Northumbria	16-17	21	5	173	55	203	73
	18-20	386	70	876	186	1,066	270
	21 and over	804	149	2,224	471	2,610	817
	Total	1,211	224	3,273	712	3,879	1,160
North Yorkshire	16-17	—	—	36	10	50	29
	18-20	171	28	234	38	264	36
	21 and over	517	94	589	111	623	99
	Total	688	122	859	159	937	164
Nottinghamshire	16-17	21	7	19	4	28	6
	18-20	164	24	106	18	152	17
	21 and over	403	51	310	65	356	66
	Total	588	82	435	87	536	89
South Yorkshire	16-17	89	22	150	45	144	49
	18-20	502	72	543	91	592	107
	21 and over	1,299	286	1,323	288	1,546	282
	Total	1,890	380	2,016	424	2,282	438
Staffordshire	16-17	21	5	31	4	27	4
	18-20	104	15	89	7	96	16
	21 and over	258	51	247	55	245	45
	Total	383	71	367	66	368	65
Suffolk	16-17	26	2	17	2	3	—
	18-20	110	10	103	8	26	2
	21 and over	226	30	225	21	55	12
	Total	362	42	345	31	84	14
Surrey	16-17	7	2	10	5	16	4
	18-20	93	15	114	12	72	11

Number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued for being drunk and disorderly, England and Wales, 2005 to 2007, broken down by age, sex and police force area[1]

Force	Age	2005		2006		2007	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
	21 and over	233	51	325	64	183	58
	Total	333	68	449	81	271	73
Sussex	16-17	89	20	66	11	59	19
	18-20	323	57	376	49	373	57
	21 and over	906	167	941	156	929	174
	Total	1,318	244	1,383	216	1,361	250
Thames Valley	16-17	4	—	13	6	8	4
	18-20	78	9	69	7	80	12
	21 and over	224	17	163	25	227	32
	Total	306	26	245	38	315	48
Warwickshire	16-17	9	—	9	1	8	1
	18-20	33	5	11	—	29	10
	21 and over	69	11	36	3	66	6
	Total	111	16	56	4	103	17
West Mercia	16-17	41	4	51	13	38	5
	18-20	130	9	191	26	148	34
	21 and over	234	32	377	61	350	51
	Total	405	45	619	100	536	90
West Midlands	16-17	86	19	110	42	179	37
	18-20	373	40	600	74	849	107
	21 and over	1,056	184	1,616	223	2,321	359
	Total	1,515	243	2,326	339	3,349	503
West Yorkshire	16-17	122	21	257	49	152	34
	18-20	427	52	831	136	659	108
	21 and over	1,188	244	2,129	428	1,565	336
	Total	1,737	317	3,217	613	2,376	478
Wiltshire	16-17	6	—	18	6	15	6
	18-20	93	8	90	15	72	4
	21 and over	237	38	233	42	176	24
	Total	336	46	341	63	263	34
Dyfed-Powys	16-17	19	3	19	1	13	—
	18-20	87	8	82	15	63	4
	21 and over	266	35	224	46	174	32
	Total	372	46	325	62	250	36
Gwent	16-17	22	2	12	2	16	—
	18-20	56	10	72	4	54	4
	21 and over	121	20	173	22	119	17
	Total	199	32	257	28	189	21
North Wales	16-17	83	14	116	32	100	27
	18-20	301	29	293	44	274	27
	21 and over	664	115	704	118	680	113
	Total	1,048	158	1,113	194	1,054	167
South Wales	16-17	24	2	61	10	21	4

Number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued for being drunk and disorderly, England and Wales, 2005 to 2007, broken down by age, sex and police force area[1]

		2005		2006		2007	
Force	*Age*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*	*Male*	*Female*
	18-20	109	14	166	28	72	9
	21 and over	281	63	464	96	212	51
	Total	414	81	691	134	305	60
England and Wales	16-17	2,019	438	2,487	671	2,405	642
	18-20	8,492	1,189	9,570	1,500	10,160	1,670
	21 and over	23,567	4,471	27,030	5,010	28,567	5,618
	Total	34,078	6,098	39,087	7,181	41,132	7,930

[1] British Transport Police did not start issuing PNDs until 2006
Source:
Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Antisocial Behaviour: Fixed Penalties

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been issued with penalty notices for disorder in each of the last three years, broken down by type of offence; and how many remain unpaid. [262525]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 10 March 2009]:* The number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued and not paid within the suspended enforcement period in England and Wales for each year from 2005 to 2007 (latest published), broken down by offence are in the following table. PND data for 2008 will be available in November 2009.

Under the PND scheme, recipients have 21 days in which either to pay the penalty or request a court hearing. If no action is taken, a fine of one and a half times the penalty amount is registered against an offender by the magistrates court. The overall fine payment rate at court is 85 per cent.; the courts fine registration system cannot differentiate between those fines arising from unpaid PNDs and any other fine.

Number of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) issued to offenders of all ages and not paid[1], broken down by offence, in England and Wales, 2005 to 2007[2]

	2005		2006		2007	
Offence	*Issued*	*Not paid*	*Issued*	*Not paid*	*Issued*	*Not paid*
Wasting police time	2,525	1,326	3,933	2,022	3,966	2,104
Misuse of public telecommunications system	405	167	909	386	1,193	523
Giving false alarm to fire or rescue authority	92	43	106	63	96	41
Causing harassment, alarm and distress	64,007	30,092	82,235	39,115	77,827	37,470
Throwing fireworks	642	295	682	302	649	275
Drunk and disorderly	37,038	16,176	43,556	18,883	46,996	20,629
Criminal Damage (under £500)	12,168	5,172	20,620	9,269	19,946	8,874
Theft (retail under £200)	21,997	12,940	38,772	22,603	43,146	26,035
Breach of fireworks curfew	33	15	53	19	39	14
Possession of category 4 firework	13	8	28	16	22	12
Possession of adult firework by person under 18	47	18	76	25	106	39
Sale of alcohol to drunken person	32	9	47	12	81	17
Supply of alcohol to person under 18	3	1	60	7	54	13
Sale of alcohol to person under 18	2,058	253	3,195	439	3,583	509
Purchase alcohol for person under 18	170	64	407	139	535	235
Purchase alcohol for person under 18 for consumption on premises	83	24	60	21	64	33
Delivery of alcohol to person under 18 or allowing such delivery	209	81	297	121	431	163
Trespass on a railway	220	123	1,042	491	1,527	747
Throwing stones at a train/railway	20	7	13	9	23	12
Drunk in a highway	3,138	1,469	2,712	1,279	2,066	920
Consumption of alcohol in public place	712	344	1,061	809	1,544	1,216
Littering	737	369	1,160	576	1,374	669
Consumption of alcohol by person under 18 on relevant premises	84	18	75	20	83	18
Allowing consumption of alcohol by person under 18 on relevant premises	27	13	14	4	11	2
Buying or attempting to buy alcohol by person under 18	21	8	73	31	158	49
Total—all offences	146,481	69,236	201,197	96,651	207,544	100,619

[1] Not paid—not paid within the suspended enforcement period.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.
Source:
Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Asylum: Repatriation

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on the Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme in 2008. [263199]

Mr. Woolas: This information is currently not available as the cost of the 2008 Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme is subject to audit.

Asylum: Zimbabwe

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people from Zimbabwe who *(a)* have been and *(b)* have not been convicted of a criminal offence in the UK were held in immigration detention centres on 1 December 2008. [243485]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 15 December 2008]:* The UK Border Agency only detains those Zimbabwean nationals who have committed crimes within the United Kingdom and are subject to deportation action and have been assessed as unsuitable for release due to being either a threat to the public and/or are likely to abscond. During December 2008 there were around 35 Zimbabwean criminals who have been detained beyond their sentence.

All foreign criminals detained pending deportation action have their detention regularly reviewed and have the opportunity to apply for release on bail to the independent Asylum and Immigration Tribunal.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if the Government will grant temporary leave to remain to refused Zimbabwean asylum seekers until it is safe for them to return home. [255897]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 12 February 2009]:* Following the recent Asylum and Immigration Tribunal country guidance judgment, all cases are being reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Those asylum seekers deemed to need protection will be granted it.

Where the independent courts have confirmed that it is safe for an individual to return home, we expect them to return home voluntarily. Hundreds of Zimbabweans have voluntarily returned home since we suspended enforced removals in September 2006.

Children: Chernobyl

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with her Belarus counterpart on visits of children to the UK from Belarus. [263368]

Mr. Woolas: The Belarusian authorities have suspended visits to the UK by children from Chernobyl contaminated areas on charitable programmes. Negotiations are being carried out at official level on a bilateral arrangement that will allow the visits to recommence. We hope to reach agreement so that visits can be planned for the summer holidays.

Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what crime and disorder reduction partnerships have been established in each local authority area in each year since 1997. [262430]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) in England and Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) in Wales were set up under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. These partnerships are organised on local government boundaries and are sited at unitary authority level in single tier authorities and district level in two-tier areas in England and county council or county borough council level in Wales. There are 346 CDRPs in England and 22 CSPs in Wales. Adjoining CDRPs/CSPs can formally merge if this is in the interests of reducing crime and disorder, subject to approval by the Secretary of State. Since 2005, six formal mergers of two or more CDRP areas have taken place.

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of *(a)* business improvement districts, *(b)* crime and disorder partnerships and *(c)* town centre management schemes at reducing crime. [262432]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Business improvement districts and town centre management schemes are locally funded approaches that primarily aim to improve the trading environment and image of defined areas. Information is not collected centrally on the performance of these schemes. Each scheme is accountable to its funder(s) who in most cases are the local authority.

Under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Crime and Disorder Partnerships (or Community Safety Partnerships in Wales) were required to report annually to the Secretary of State on their activities. This duty was repealed in 2007 in recognition that partnership working practices had matured, to reduce bureaucracy and to enhance the response to the local community's needs. It was replaced by statutory requirements for CDRPs/CSPs to produce a strategic assessment identifying local community safety priorities and a partnership plan which sets out the approach for addressing these priorities and is published locally (in summary form). Hallmarks of Effective Partnerships were also introduced to drive up standards.

Regional Government offices provide a link between CDRPs/CSPs and central Government and have a key role in improving the effectiveness of partnerships. They work closely with partnerships to monitor their work in relation to local and national priorities, and provide support and guidance on the implementation of the hallmarks of effective practice.

Crimes of Violence

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times the power to issue directions to leave under section 27(1) of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 have been used in each police force area in each year since 2006. [263499]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested on the number of directions to leave issued by the police, and arrests for failing to comply with the direction to leave is not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery.

Offences of failing to comply with directions to leave under section 27 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 are not notifiable offences and do not form part of the arrests collection.

Crimes of Violence: Crime Prevention

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many woundings were reported in each of the four cities targeted by the Tackling Gangs Action Programme where the weapon used was *(a)* a gun and *(b)* a sharp or pointed instrument in each of the last three years. [263192]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Available data for Manchester, Liverpool, London and Birmingham relate to offences recorded at police force area level by the following forces: Greater Manchester, Merseyside, Metropolitan and West Midlands. Figures in the following table are based upon headline figures presented in tables 1.03, 1.13 and 2b of "Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2007/08" (HOSB 02/09), and table 3.09 of "Crime in England and Wales 2007/08" (HOSB 07/08).

Offences involving the use of a sharp instrument or firearm resulting in injury: TGAP forces, 2005-06 to 2007-08[1]

Number of offences

	Weapon type	*Greater Manchester*	*Merseyside*	*Metropolitan*	*West Midlands*
2005-06	*Homicide*[2]:				
	Shooting[3]	5	1	23	5
	Sharp instrument[4]	11	10	57	22
	Firearm offences[5] resulting in injury (excluding fatal)	347	248	1,627	368
	Knife offences[6, 7] resulting in injury (excluding fatal)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2006-07	*Homicide*[2]:				
	Shooting[3]	4	5	29	5
	Sharp instrument[4]	13	10	70	15
	Firearm offences[5] resulting in injury (excluding fatal)	261	178	1,399	382
	Knife offences[6, 7] resulting in injury (excluding fatal)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2007-08	*Homicide*[2]:				
	Shooting[3]	6	6	23	4
	Sharp instrument[4]	15	9	78	15
	Firearm offences[5] resulting in injury (excluding fatal)	307	134	1,494	351
	Knife offences[6, 7] resulting in injury (excluding fatal)	915	364	1,747	931

n/a = Not available. These data have been collected centrally only since April 2007.
[1] Offences are shown according to the financial year (April to March) in which they were recorded by police. This is not necessarily the year in which the offence took place or the year in which any court decision was made.
[2] Currently recorded homicides as at 4 November 2008; figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.
[3] Includes air weapons, crossbows. Excludes cases where weapon used as a blunt instrument.
[4] Includes knives and other sharp instruments.
[5] Includes air weapons; excludes crossbows. Injury incurred by weapon being fired or used as a blunt instrument.
[6] Relates only to offences recorded as "wounding with intent to do GBH" or "wounding or inflicting GBH" (i.e. without intent).

Departmental Art Works

Mr. Viera: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which works of art from the Government Art Collection each Minister in her Department has selected for display in a private office. [259442]

Mr. Woolas: The following works of art have been selected:

	Artist/makers
Home Secretary	
Untitled (Mountains and Water)	Paul Joyce
Untitled (Ridge and Clouds)	Paul Joyce
Just in Time	Wilhelmina Barns-Graham
Two Circles on Purple	Wilhelmina Barns-Graham
Vision in Time	Wilhelmina Barns-Graham
Grey Mountain	Hanna Nadeem
Minister of State Policing, Crime and Security	
Attacking the Winch	Bernard Cheese
Still Night	Patricia Pratt
This Land of Ours	Alan Baines
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Crime Reduction	
Robert Stewart, Viscount Castlereagh (1769-1822) Statesman	Sir Thomas Lawrence, Charles Turner

	Artist/makers
Tynemouth Castle from the North, with a View of the Haven, etc.	John "Warwick" Smith, Francois Vivares
An Election Ball	William Heath ("Paul Pry")
Sir Robert Peel Bt (1788-1850) Prime Minister	Sir Thomas Lawrence, Samuel Cousins
George Canning (1770-1827) Prime Minister	Thomas Stewardson, William Brett
Metro IV	Michael Upton
Metro V	Michael Upton
Metro (Newcastle)	Michael Upton
"Two Pair of Portraits", presented to all the enfranchised Electors of Great Britain, by John Bloore Tooke	James Gillray, C. Starck
Minister of State for Borders and Immigration	
Agne of Notre Dame	Bernard Kay
Chartres East	Bernard Kay
Chartres West	Bernard Kay
Interior, Poitiers	Bernard Kay
Reservoir	Bernard Kay
Syon House Conservatory	Charles Gautier
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State Home Office	
The River Thames at Richmond Wapping to Windsor	Anthony Etherington
Jackson's Pond 10 Artists Printmaking, Folio 3	Norman Ackroyd
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State Security and Counter-Terrorism	
Override Discharge into Barges at Malta October 1943	Bernard Hailstone
Sewerage with Royal Naval Ships, c.1943	Charles King
Night in the Docks	Charles David Cobb
Working Cimrods while Submerged Submarine Infographs	Eric Ravilious
Entering the Harwich Channel	Robert Butler

Departmental Security

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 284W, on departmental security, what procedures are in place to minimise the security risk posed by lost or stolen security passes. [254554]

Mr. Woolas: It is not our policy to disclose security procedures.

Departmental Translation Services

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on translation services in 2008, broken down by area of allocation. [263213]

Mr. Woolas: The Department's expenditure on translation and interpretation services in 2007-08, being the most recent period for which audited figures are available, is set out in the table.

	£000
Home Office, including UKBA	9,636
Identity and Passport Service	260
Criminal Records Bureau	0

The figures cannot be broken down by allocation, without incurring disproportionate cost.

The offer of interpreter services was introduced in the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) when interviews for first time adults became compulsory in 2007-08.

Face-to-face interviews for first time applicants are designed to help tackle fraud and ensure the British passport remains among the most secure in the world.

Interviews are tailored to the individual in order to securely establish identity and it is possible that some interviews could require the assistance of an interpreter to help IPS staff satisfy themselves that the person attending is the legitimate passport applicant

Drugs: Humberside

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in the Humberside Police Authority area were *(a)* arrested for, *(b)* charged with and *(c)* convicted of drug offences in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [262254]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The available information for the number of people in the Humberside Police Authority area arrested for drug offences in each of the last five years is given in table 1.

Data provided by the Ministry of Justice, showing the number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts of drug offences in the Humberside Police Force Area, 2003 to 2007 are in table 2. Charging data are not collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice; proceeded against information is provided in lieu.

The court proceedings statistics provided relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with.

When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Table 1: Persons arrested for drugs offences by police force area, England and Wales[1]

	Number of arrests for drug offences				
Police force area	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Humberside	1,337	1,484	1,242	1,082	1,209

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Table 2: Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates' courts and found guilty at all courts for drug offences, in Humberside police force area, 2003-07[1,2]

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Proceeded against	740	790	739	680	716
Found guilty	672	719	685	665	674

[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Drunkenness: Beverley

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals aged under 18 years resident in Beverley were *(a)* arrested for and *(b)* issued with a penalty notice for being drunk and disorderly in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [262255]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The number of persons aged 16 to 17 years issued with a penalty notice for disorder (PND) for being drunk and disorderly, in the Humberside police force area, which includes Beverley, from 2004, when the scheme was implemented, to 2007 (latest available) are given in the following table.

PND data are collected centrally at police force area level; data for Beverley is not available separately.

Data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

The number of penalty notices for disorder issued to persons aged 16 to 17 years for being drunk and disorderly[1]*, in the Humberside police force area, from 2004 to 2007*[2]

	Total issued
2004	57
2005	54
2006	75
2007	53

[1] Data includes the following offence descriptions and corresponding statutes:
Being found drunk in a highway or other public place, whether a building or not, or on licensed premises—Licensing Act 1872, section 12;
Being guilty while drunk of disorderly behaviour—Criminal Justice Act 1967, section 91.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit

Immobilisation of Vehicles: Scotland

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make an assessment of the efficacy of the prohibition of wheel clamping on private land in Scotland to assist in formulating her policy for England. [261886]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 9 March 2009]:* Wheel-clamping was not prohibited in Scotland as a result of a Government decision. The position in Scotland was determined by case law which determined that wheel-clamping on private land amounted to theft and the demand of a release fee amounted to extortion under Scottish Law.

Ministers have recently received a feasibility study undertaken by the SIA on the various options for the regulation of vehicle immobilisation companies who work on private land in England and Wales. We will take into account the evidence contained in this feasibility study as the policy on the compulsory licensing of companies in England and Wales is developed.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam of 21 August 2008 concerning Mr. Dennis Green of Cheam. [258489]

Mr. Woolas: Ministerial letters received at the Home Office are routinely scanned on arrival onto the Correspondence Tracking System (CTS) by the Direct Communications Unit (DCU). There is no record on the system of a letter dated 21 August 2008 from the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam having been received.

The Member's office has now provided the Home Office with a copy of the letter, and this was scanned onto CTS on 13 March. A reply will be provided as quickly as possible, and within the office's 15 working day target.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam of 11 September 2008 concerning Mr. David Hughes of Sutton. [258490]

Mr. Woolas: Ministerial letters received at the Home Office are routinely scanned on arrival onto the correspondence tracking system (CTS) by the Direct Communications Unit (DCU). There is no record on the system of a letter dated 11 September 2008 from the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam having been received.

The Member's office has now provided the Home Office with a copy of the letter, and this was scanned onto CTS on 13 March. A reply will be provided as quickly as possible, and within the Office's 15 working day target.

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton of 20 January 2009 on Mrs. K. Mirza. [260400]

Jacqui Smith: I wrote to my right hon. Friend on 9 March 2009.

National Identity Register

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what requirements there will be on persons required to register on the National Identity Register to attend interviews. [258117]

Mr. Malik: In some cases, individuals may be asked to attend an interview when they apply for registration on the National Identity Register or for a replacement card. We will build upon existing practice where first time adult passport applicants are interviewed in order to help confirm their identity.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 157W, on the National Identity Register, whether there will be indirect links between the National Identity Register and other Government databases; and whether third party organisations will have indirect access to the register. [260337]

Mr. Malik: The Identity Cards Act 2006 sets out the legal basis for the provision of information from the National Identity Register, such as a person's name or address, in order to assist in verifying that individual's identity. This will necessitate arrangements for the provision of such information from the register to an authorised person, but it will not involve third party access to the register.

Offensive Weapons: Convictions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2056W, on the Tackling Knives Action Programme, what the figure of 815 more convictions for possession of a knife or offensive weapon in the 10 Tackling Knives Action Programme areas represents as a percentage increase. [258718]

Jacqui Smith: Management information being used to monitor TKAP suggests that in the period June to November 2008 there were 815 more convictions for possession of a knife or offensive weapon in the 10 TKAP areas than in the same period of 2007. This figure represents a 17 per cent. increase between the two periods.

These figures are provisional and have been derived from the police's administrative IT system, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Police: Health

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what data on police fitness tests her Department collected from police forces in 2007-08. [262347]

Jacqui Smith: In 2007-08 the following fitness test data was collected from each police force authority by ethnicity and gender: Numbers taking fitness test; Results (Dynamic strength push/pull/overall, endurance); Overall result (pass/fail).

The Policing Green Paper announced that Sir David Normington, permanent secretary to the Home Office, would lead a review of the strategic data collection burden placed by the Home Office on police forces in England and Wales. Sir David's report was published on 16 February.

Fitness tests data collection was one of the data streams cut. It was previously required by HMIC and recorded fitness test breakdown by gender, number of attempts, number taking the attempt and the fitness skill level tested. Given HMIC's new mission after the publication of the Policing Green Paper, this data is no longer required by them. Forces have been informed not to provide the data in the 2009-10 Annual Data Requirement notice thereby removing the burden on police support staff to collate and supply the data to the Home Office.

Prisoners: Foreigners

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many foreign national prisoners granted immigration bail by the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal have subsequently re-offended in each of the last five years; [260083]

(2) how many foreign national prisoners held under immigration detention powers have been granted bail in each of the last 10 years. [260084]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency is advised of all individuals who meet the published criteria for deportation, however there are a number of cases where individuals have been convicted of minor offences and consequently only received a brief custodial sentence. In order to identify how many individuals who have been detained under immigration powers were previously convicted of a criminal offence within the United Kingdom which resulted in a custodial sentence and how many of those were subsequently granted bail it would be necessary to cross reference UK Border Agency records with those held by the Police which would incur a significantly disproportionate cost.

The Chief Executive has regularly written to the Home Affairs Select Committee in order to update them with all of the most robust and accurate information relating to foreign national prisoners. She has explained that those who are detained have the right to apply for bail to the independent Asylum and Immigration Tribunal. When the Agency believes that the individual concerned presents a risk of harm to the public, it will robustly contest the application for bail. The Agency will continue to pursue removal action where appropriate.

Copies of these letters are available in the Library of the House.

Racially Aggravated Offences: North East

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many reported incidents of racism there have been in *(a)* the North East, *(b)* Tees Valley and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last five years. [262919]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not available from the police recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office. The series has the number of racially or religiously aggravated offences recorded by the police but cannot identify those which are deemed to be 'institutionally racist'.

Vetting

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Government plan to introduce basic disclosures for Criminal Records Bureau checks; and what recent estimate she has made of the cost of introducing basic disclosures for such checks. [264090]

Mr. Malik *[holding answer 16 March 2009]:* The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) will be making a commitment in its Corporate Plan 2009-10 to research how it can implement a Basic Disclosure Service. In doing so, the bureau has begun work on design requirements for the operational model and will be testing this further with its stakeholders and potential customers over the next 12 months. The associated costs and business benefits will be evaluated as part of this work.

Vetting: Teachers

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many Criminal Records Bureau checks there were of teachers recruited to work in Muslim schools in 2008; [262887]

(2) how many Criminal Records Bureau checks there were on *(a)* paid and *(b)* volunteer staff recruited to work in mosques in England and Wales in 2008. [262888]

Mr. Malik: The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) does not capture this information. This information is not relevant to any of the searches performed against the Police National Computer (PNC) or other data sources.

Visas: Overseas Students

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what provisions the UK Border Agency applies in determining the length of student visas for foreign students wishing to study at educational institutions in the UK. [258631]

Mr. Woolas: The period of leave granted to overseas students depends on the type of course they are studying and our policies are set out in full in Chapter 3, Section 3, paragraph 27 of the Immigration Directorates' Instructions, which can be accessed on our website at: www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk. For the majority of students, however, leave is granted for the duration of the course or period of study, followed by an additional period of up to four months to await exam results, attend graduation, and either enrol on another course, make an application to switch into an employment route, which is possible for up to two years, or else leave the UK.

Work Permits

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 10 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1834-35W, on work permits, if she will break down each category of occupation by nationality of permit applicant. [257553]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* The tables placed in the House Library provide a breakdown of the top 20 occupations by nationality and the associated number of individual approved work permit applications for the period 1 January 2006-31 December 2008 with the appropriate caveats.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Angling

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will assess the effect of the increases in planning fee charges on firms constructing fishing lakes. [263925]

Mr. Iain Wright: Planning application fees were increased in April 2008. In its response to the public consultation on the proposed fee increases, "Planning Fees in England: Proposals for Change" (November 2007), the Government committed to review the impact of the increases and take a further look at planning fees in 2009.

We are currently conducting a review of planning application fees and will assess the effect of the increases on the fee category which includes the construction of fishing lakes.

Building Regulations

Dr. Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to include guidance on the installation and use of circulation pumps in the revision of Parts L1A and L1B Building Regulations. [263607]

Mr. Iain Wright: We are currently reviewing part L of the building regulations and are considering the potential introduction of minimum provisions for circulation pumps in both domestic and non-domestic buildings in 2010. The eventual proposals will be the subject of a formal public consultation that we expect to issue shortly.

Buildings: Disabled

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which planning *(a)* policy statement and *(b)* guidance notes issued by her Department contain information on the provision of access for disabled people. [264322]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following planning policy statements and guidance notes issued by CLG (and predecessor Departments) contain information on the provision of access for disabled people:

Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Development (PPS1) (2005)

Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing (PPS3) (2006)

Consultation Paper on new Planning Policy Statement 4: Planning for Sustainable Economic Development (2007)

Urban Design in the Planning System: Towards Better Practice (2000)

Planning and access for disabled people: a good practice guide (2003)

Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning for Town Centres (PPS6) (2005)

Planning Policy Statement 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (PPS7) (2004)

Planning Policy Guidance 13: Transport (PPG 13) (2001)

Guidance on Transport Assessment (2007)

Using the Planning Process to Secure Travel Plans: Best Practice Guidance for Local Authorities, Developers and Occupiers (2002)

Planning Policy Guidance Note 15: Planning and the Historic Environment (PPG15) (1994)

Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17 (2002)

Planning Policy Statement 25: Development and Flood Risk (PPS25) (2006)

Planning Policy Statement 25: Development and Flood Risk - Practice Guide (2008)

DCLG Circular 01/2006 Guidance on Changes to the Development Control System Diversity and Equality in Planning: A good practice guide (2005)

The Manual for Streets (2007)

Better Places to Live by Design: A Companion Guide to PPG3 (2001)

Safer Places: The Planning System and Crime Prevention (2004)

The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004.

Community Development

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding her Department is providing to each of the regional neighbourhood training and resource centres in 2008-09. [262670]

Mr. Khan: CLG is providing a total of £2,267,142 to Neighbourhood Training and Resource Centres (NTRCs) in 2008-09, broken down as follows:

Region	*Comment*	*£*
London	Also covers Eastern Region.	611,500
North East	Funding is split between the Resource Centre and the Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership.	242,000
North West	—	523,000
South East	—	207,109
South West	—	200,350
West Midlands	Also covers parts of East Midlands	249,583
Yorkshire and Hull	Also covers parts of East Midlands	233,600

Community Relations: Finance

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding her Department has provided for Radical Middle Way in each year since 2005; how much funding was for the support of *(a)* domestic programmes, *(b)* overseas programmes and *(c)* website costs; and what funding has been allocated to Radical Middle Way in 2008-09 for expenditure in each category. [263549]

Mr. Khan: From December 2005 to February 2007 (Phase 1), the Radical Middle Way (RMW) was funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Home Office at a cost of £460,000. £35,000 of this was for their website.

From October 2007 to May 2008 (Phase 2), the RMW was funded by both the FCO and Communities and Local Government equally at a total cost of £250,000. £12,000 of this was for their website.

From October 2008 to April 2009 (Phase 3), the RMW's domestic work is being funded exclusively by Communities and Local Government at a cost of £350,000. During this third phase, £7,000 was for their website.

Separately, the FCO has provided £615,458 for RMW in 2008-09 to deliver a programme of work in countries overseas.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding her Department has provided for the Mosaic Muslim Mentoring Scheme in each of the last five years; and what estimate she has made of such expenditure in 2008-09. [263550]

Mr. Khan: The Mosaic Mentoring Scheme was launched in November 2007.

Communities and Local Government has awarded funding of £51,700 in 2007-08 to the Mosaic Mentoring Scheme through the Preventing Violent Extremism Community Leadership Fund. Funding allocations for 2008-09 and 2009-10 will be announced shortly.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of programmes funded under the Prevent strand of Project CONTEST are independently evaluated by social regeneration companies for their effectiveness and value for money. [263551]

Mr. Khan: The majority of Prevent funding from Communities and Local Government has been allocated to local authorities to fund programmes at the local level. Following the £6 million Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder in 2007-08:

> We commissioned a report by the independent company BMG mapping the key outputs from the Fund and drawing together the results from local evaluation activity that had taken place. This was published on 10 December 2008, at the Prevent08 conference, and is available at
>
> http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/pathfinderfund200708
>
> Key learning from the Pathfinder year, including from evaluation by independent companies, was drawn together in the publication Delivering Prevent—Responding to Learning, also available on CLG's website at
>
> http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/deliveryingprevent

Moving forward, the key performance indicator for local Prevent work, National Indicator 35, puts effective evaluation at the centre of local Prevent work. It is for individual local authorities to determine the nature and scope of local evaluation and to tender for providers. Communities and Local Government has also commissioned the Tavistock Institute to develop a national evaluation framework and evaluation guidance.

Prevent programmes funded by Communities and Local Government at the national level which are being evaluated by independent companies are: Radical Middle

Way (APEX consulting); the Faith and Social Cohesion Unit in the Charity Commission (currently out to tender); and the Islam and Citizenship Education programme (ICoCo) which is jointly funded by DCSF.

This response captures evaluation of programmes of Prevent work funded by Communities and Local Government. The Home Office now holds lead responsibility for the cross-government Prevent programme.

Council Housing: Construction

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will bring forward proposals to increase the rate of council house building. [263825]

Mr. Iain Wright: We want local authorities to play a bigger role in the delivery of affordable housing where this can be done cost-effectively. My Department is currently consulting on new freedoms that would help councils build more council homes. Under the proposals, councils would keep all the rental income from new homes they build, and the full capital receipts if those homes were sold in future under the right to buy. This extra revenue and capital could be used by councils to help build more council housing. We are also inviting councils to bid for Social Housing Grant. Previously local authorities have not been able to get this funding.

Council Housing: Rents

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 6 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 71-72WS, on local authority rents, for what reasons the announcement was not made as part of the local government finance settlement. [263032]

Mr. Iain Wright: The housing revenue account system is independent of the Local Government Finance Settlement 2009-10. The announcement of help for local authorities to reduce their proposed rent increases for 2009-10 was made on 6 March as soon as was possible to do so after listening to the concerns of tenants and local authorities.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department plans to issue a new methodology for retail price inflation to be used for calculation of rent restructuring from 2009-10. [263034]

Mr. Iain Wright: Communities and Local Government will be issuing a draft Amending 2009-10 Determination for consultation shortly. This will explain the calculations for revised 2009-10 guideline rents.

Changes in retail price inflation will be considered when we review guideline rents for 2010-11.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 6 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 71-72WS, on local authority rents, what the estimated administrative costs are of rebilling of rents for 2009-10 by participating local authorities. [263035]

Mr. Iain Wright: No such estimate has been made.

Local authorities' spending allowances were set in the subsidy determination issued in December 2008, with higher inflation factors incorporated in the calculations than would apply now. We do not propose to revisit and reduce these assumptions in the same way that we are looking to reduce rent increases for 2009-10. Our priority and focus has been on helping council house tenants. We would expect, therefore, that local housing authorities will have the resources necessary to cover any such additional cost.

A letter was sent to councils on 11 March explaining how the revised arrangements will be taken forward.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 6 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 71-72WS, on local authority rents, what estimate she has made of the proportion of local authorities which will bid for additional subsidy. [263036]

Mr. Iain Wright: No estimate has been made of the proportion of local authorities that will take advantage of the announcement made in the written ministerial statement. This is a matter for individual authorities to decide according to local circumstances.

Council Tax

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average council tax requirement levied per resident by each county council in England is for 2009-10, ranked from highest to lowest. [263396]

John Healey: This information will be available after the publication of the statistical release "Council tax levels set by local authorities in England—2009-10" on 26 March 2009, and I will place a copy of the data requested in the Library of the House.

Council Tax: Mobile Homes

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment she has made of the appropriateness of the council tax banding applied to park homes; and if she will make a statement. [264163]

John Healey: No such assessment has been made.

Councillors: Arun

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1072W, on councillors: Arun, what the Audit Commission's basis was for the use of its statutory powers to obtain the personal bank account details of councillors. [263050]

Mr. Khan: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 17 March 2009:

Your Parliamentary Question on what the Audit Commission's evidential basis was for the use of its statutory powers to obtain the personal bank account details of Arun councillors has been passed to me for reply.

The request is not limited to councillors. All payroll data is treated in the same way whether it is a salary, members' allowance or other remuneration. Payroll data is one of the key sets of data matched under the National Fraud Initiative (NFI). For example, by matching payroll data to Housing Benefit claimants' data, we can identify potential fraudulent claims or overpayments.

NFI data processing looks at whether the bank account number and sort code is the same or different in the data provided. This information is then converted into a flag of either 'Yes' the bank details are the same on each data set or 'No' the bank details are different. It is this flag that is included in the NFI reports that helps those participating in the NFI exercise to prioritise cases where income has, for example, potentially been withheld (e.g. in an undeclared bank account). This data is highly significant in the fight against fraud and, in a previous NFI exercise, this information led to the detection of an additional bank account containing capital in excess of £100,000 that was not declared by the housing benefit claimant.

Although the bank account and sort code are included on the payroll data specification, the name in which the bank account is held is not collected so the Audit Commission cannot make a connection to other account holders or transactions. All the data collected for the National Fraud Initiative is treated with the utmost sensitivity and its use is strictly controlled as set out in the Code of Data Matching Practice, which was laid before Parliament on 21 July 2008. In line with the Code, all original data provided to the Commission will be destroyed and rendered irrecoverable by the Commission at the end of the exercise.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1072-3W, on councillors: Arun, whether the Audit Commission plans to conduct similar exercises in other local authorities in the next 12 months. [263828]

Mr. Khan: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the Chief Executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 17 March 2009:

Your Parliamentary question on whether the Audit Commission plans to conduct in other local authorities in the next 12 months, exercises similar to that conducted in Arun in connection with the Commission's National Fraud Initiative (NFI), has been passed to me for reply.

The Commission does not plan to conduct NFI national data matching exercises in other local authorities in the next 12 months because the NFI is currently undertaken every two years. This exercise is carried out under powers in Part 2A of the Audit Commission Act 1998. All local authorities were required to provide data, including payroll data, for NFI 2008/09 in October 2008. The next scheduled exercise, NFI 2010/11, will require all local authorities to submit data in October 2010.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Bromley and Chislehurst (Robert Neill) of 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1072-3W, on councillors: Arun, whether the Audit Commission has requested councillors in other local authorities to provide their personal bank account details; and what penalty applies in respect of non-compliance with such a request from the Audit Commission. [263829]

Mr. Khan: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member direct.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 17 March 2009:

Your Parliamentary question on whether the Audit Commission has requested councillors in other local authorities to provide their personal bank account details; and what penalty for non-compliance applies in respect of such a request from the Audit Commission has been passed to me for reply.

All local authorities were required to provide payroll data, including but not restricted to councillors bank account details, for NFI 2008/09 in October 2008. This information was required under powers in Part 2A of the Audit Commission Act 1998. Failure to provide the required data without reasonable excuse is an offence for which an individual, on summary conviction, is liable to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale plus an additional fine of up to £20 for each day that the offence continues after conviction. Currently, a level 3 fine can be for an amount up to £1,000.

A copy of this letter will be placed in Hansard.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the purpose and function of the McKinsey consultancy services provided to her Department was in relation to the Communities High Level Seminar; and into which categories the £407,000 of expenditure on the consultancy work fell. [262378]

Mr. Khan: McKinsey and Company was commissioned in June 2007, following competitive tender, to help implement the new local performance framework.

In a first phase of work, they helped: assess opportunities and challenges created by the new framework; identify where to prioritise work to ensure successful delivery; and engage senior leaders (in part through a two-day high-level seminar). Fees for this phase were £125,000 (excluding VAT) or £147,000 (including VAT).

They were subsequently commissioned to carry out a second phase of work, in which they helped: review and strengthen the cross-government programme to implement the framework, including new local area agreements; establish a cross-government Leadership Coalition to lead reform: and provide input into the Government publication 'An introduction to the local performance framework—delivering better outcomes for local people'. Fees for this phase were £240,000 (excluding VAT) or £282,000 (including VAT).

Departmental Lost Property

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what property has been lost or stolen from her Department in the last 12 months; and what the estimated cost was of replacement of such property. [263115]

Mr. Khan: The property reported as lost or stolen by Communities and Local Government in the last 12 months together with the estimated cost of replacement of such property is as follows:

2008-09

	Status	
	Lost	*Stolen*
Mobile phone	1	0
Laptop computer	0	1
Blackberrys	0	5
Approximate cost of replacement (£)	60	1,050.00

The official data on the laptop and Blackberrys was not encrypted because it was not classified. However, the laptop and each Blackberry were password protected.

This answer does not include Government offices for the region who carry out functions on behalf of 10 Government Departments.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the register of interests of her Department's special advisers. [262164]

Mr. Khan: The rules and guidance for civil servants, including special advisers, on the declaration of interests and handling conflicts of interest are set out in the Civil Service Management Code and the departmental staff handbook.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what percentage of letters sent by her Department were given to *(a)* the Royal Mail and *(b)* another postal services provider for delivery in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [259964]

Mr. Khan: During the period 1 March 2008 to 28 February 2009, 78,105 postal items were despatched via Royal Mail. 19 international postal items, (less than 0.03 per cent. of all items) were despatched via Corporate Mailing Services (CMS) which is a private company sub-contracted to our facilities management services provider.

Disabled Facilities Grants

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what mechanisms are in place to evaluate the effects of changes to the disabled facilities grant system published in February 2008; [263569]

(2) what assessment she has made of the effect on local disabled facilities allocation grant of the increase in the grant of 20 per cent. [263570]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government regard the disabled facilities grant programme as an important means to help disabled and older people continue to live as independently as possible by having their homes adapted. That is why we have increased the budget to enable more older and disabled people to receive the assistance they require. The effect of the annual grant increase will in part be assessed through the collection of data showing the number of grants awarded. We do not collect data on the time it takes an authority to deliver a disabled facilities grant as circumstances will vary from case to case but recognise that due to budgetary pressures delays in delivery can sometimes occur. The increase in the budget should help to address delays. Other data collected from local authorities will give an indication as to the effect of the wider changes made to the programme such as the relaxation of the grant conditions. We have also set up a group of nine local authorities to evaluate some of the changes to the programme announced in February 2008. The local authorities are assisting with the piloting of the removal of the grant ring fence. The pilot will run for 18 months and a full evaluation will follow prior to any possible implementation.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was *(a)* budgeted and *(b)* spent on disabled facilities grant in each year since its introduction. [263602]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government regard the Disabled Facilities Grant programme as an important means to help disabled and older people continue to live as independently as possible by having their homes adapted. That is why we have more than doubled the Government funds available for the programme from £57 million in 1997 to £146 million in 2008 with an increase of £10 million in each of the subsequent years making the budget £166 million by 2010. Details of the grant contributions by Communities and Local Government can be found on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/supportandadaptations/housingadaptations/localauthoritydfgallocations/

Economic Situation: Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department *(a)* has undertaken and *(b)* plans to undertake in respect of (i) economic competitiveness and (ii) quality of life for residents in seaside towns in England. [262991]

John Healey: The Department recognises that seaside towns have a distinctive role to play in sub-regional and regional economies. It supports efforts by the regional development agencies (RDAs), which receive the majority of their funding from CLG, to ensure that seaside towns in their regions are helped to achieve their full economic potential. Initiatives such as the New Deal for Communities, Working Neighbourhoods Fund, and the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative are also benefiting some seaside towns.

Local area agreements (LAAs) are helping local authorities, including those with seaside towns, to work alongside partners to improve public services and the quality of life for people living and working in their areas. Multi area agreements (MAAs) are enabling some seaside towns, such as Bournemouth and Poole, to develop stronger approaches to improving local prosperity. The Government Office for the South West is currently working closely with Torbay on plans to set up an Economic Development Company to promote economic growth and regeneration.

The cross-Government working group on coastal towns, led by CLG, in partnership with the RDA Coastal Areas Network, is identifying areas where more can be done and to highlight existing best practice. This includes supporting work by the Coastal Areas Network to help coastal areas address employment and skills challenges.

Eco-Towns

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects the Eco-towns Planning Policy Statement to be published. [263850]

Margaret Beckett: We expect to publish the Eco-towns Planning Policy Statement (PPS) later this year following consideration of responses to the consultation on the draft PPS, which runs until 30 April 2009.

European Regional Development Fund

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes have been made to her Department's budgets to provide for payment of the financial corrections required by the European Commission in respect of management of European Regional Development Fund programmes. [262970]

Mr. Khan *[holding answer 12 March 2009]:* Funding for ERDF financial corrections was found by a mixture of slippage, unallocated budgets and windfall receipts on a number of programmes, without loss of planned outputs.

Fire Services: Contracts

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answers to my hon. Friend the Member for Ruislip-Northwood (Mr. Hurd) of 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 108W, on fire services: contracts, and of 22 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1635W, on Government contracts, who authorised the decision not to include the recommended break clauses in the regional fire control rooms contracts. [263931]

Mr. Khan: There are three main contracts that CLG are responsible for in relation to FiReControl. Of these, the IT contract with EADS Defence and Security and the Facilities Management contract include appropriate non default termination provisions. These are in line with OGC Guidance.

The RCC leases are structured as finance leases, to defer capital cost over the stated intended life of the project. This was done to maximise VFM through the use of a core public sector/government covenant to maximise the investment value of such assets over an extended period, and thereby reduce cost to the public purse. The insertion of break clauses, while feasible, would have reduced or removed the benefits of that covenant yield and, ultimately, increased the cost of the initial asset.

Flood Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to implement the Pitt proposals relating to planning on flood plains; and if she will make a statement. [263876]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government's Response to Sir Michael Pitt's Review of the summer 2007 floods was published on 17 December 2008. The response sets out what has already been done, and the further actions being taken, to implement each of the Review's recommendations. This includes recommendations 7 and 8 which relate to planning and flood risk. The Government's response can be viewed at:

www.defra.gov.uk/environ/fcd/floods07/Govtresptopitt.pdf

In our response we said we would undertake an initial review of the implementation of PPS25, drawing on information such as the Environment Agency's annual 'Development and Flood Risk' reports. This initial review has recently concluded. Communities and Local Government will be writing to local planning authorities to draw their attention to the review's findings and to emphasise the importance the Government places on reducing the risk of flooding to new development. The Department's letter and the findings of the review will be made available on the Department's website.

Freedom of Information

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Beckenham of 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1644W, on departments: freedom of information, what requests have been made to her Department under the *(a)* Freedom of Information Act (FOI) 2000 and *(b)* Environmental Information Regulations since September 2007; and what the (i) FOI case reference number, (ii) nature and topic of information requested, (iii) request outcome and (iv) where appropriate, reason for exemption was in each case. [262039]

Mr. Khan: I have placed the information requested in the Library of the House in four tables—(a) resolved requests considered under the Freedom of Information Act 2000; (b) unresolved requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000; (c) resolved requests considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004; and (d) unresolved requests under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Where the topic of the request as recorded on the database used for entering and tracking progress of requests exceeds the permitted maximum length of 255 characters, the topic descriptor has been abbreviated by the program.

Government Offices for the Regions: Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) of 29 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 771W, on Government offices for the regions: expenditure, if she will request the Government Offices for the regions to publish annually information on the programme budgets they administer. [263511]

Mr. Khan: As I said in my answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 122W, programme budgets administered by the Government Offices are the responsibility of the Secretaries of State for the relevant sponsor Departments. The Departments delegate authority to the Regional Directors to spend against their programmes, though all expenditure incurred is recorded in the accounts of the Department concerned.

Publication of information on these budgets is included in the accounts of those Departments responsible for the programmes.

Green Belt

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much land has been taken *(a)* out of and *(b)* into the greenbelt, excluding land in the New Forest, in each of the last 10 years. [263155]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 12 March 2009]:* Information on land taken in and out of the green belt is not held centrally. However, estimates on the total area of green belt land and the net change in that area for England are tabled as follows. These figures exclude the area of green belt land that was transferred to the New Forest National park in 2005. Figures are shown for each of the last 10 years for which data are available.

	Area (hectares)[1]	*Net annual change (hectares)*[2]
1997	1,602,340	—
2003	1,624,280	3,657
2004	1,630,890	6,610
2006	1,631,830	470
2007	1,635,670	3,840

[1] Excludes the area of green belt land transferred to the New Forest National park in 2005.
[2] Compared with the previous year or an annual average where the interval exceeds one year.
Source:
Communities and Local Government Statistical Releases: Green Belt Statistics, England.

Housing: Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many residents of non-coastal towns have been placed in seaside towns under the Seaside and Country Homes Scheme since the scheme's inception. [262994]

John Healey: Since 1998, 2,071 households, all from London boroughs, have been placed in new homes under the Seaside and Country Homes Mobility Scheme. The historic breakdown of figures between those moving to either seaside or country locations under this scheme is not available. Figures prior to 1998 are not available.

Housing: Construction

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many permanent dwellings built with private funds were started in England in each quarter of the last 30 years. [262689]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given on 26 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1542-45W.

Dwellings built with private funds have been interpreted as private enterprise new house building starts.

Housing: Low Incomes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether her Department authorised representatives of the Homes and Communities Agency to attend the launch of the affordable housing funding package by the Mayor of London on 3 March 2009; [263038]

(2) how many additional affordable homes will be provided under the Homes and Communities Agency's £135 million funding package for London. [263040]

Margaret Beckett: The £135 million package announced by the Mayor on 3 March contained two elements:

(a) £93 million to unlock five stalled development sites across London over the next 12 months. The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) estimates this will result in approximately 941 new affordable homes on these five sites; and

(b) £42 million for the "Up2U/First Steps" scheme. The details of this scheme are still being finalised, but it is potentially novel and therefore may require ministerial approval before HCA funding can be committed.

It was appropriate for the HCA to attend the launch event on 3 March to support the first element of this package (the £93 million to support development in London). The joint GLA/HCA press notice issued for this event indicated that funding for the "Up2U/First Steps" scheme was subject to ministerial approval.

Infrastructure Planning Commission

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her latest estimate is of the *(a)* capital and *(b)* running costs of the Infrastructure Planning Commission in 2009-10. [264179]

Mr. Iain Wright: In January this year we published an annex to the Planning Bill impact assessment which confirmed that the costs are within the margin of error allowed for within the original impact assessment and the estimated set up and running costs of the Infrastructure Planning Commission remain at £5 million and £9.3 million respectively.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the remuneration package will be for each member of the Infrastructure Planning Commission. [264180]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Chair of the Infrastructure Planning Commission will receive £184,000 per annum based on a time commitment of four days per week (that is £230,000 per annum pro rata). The posts of deputy chair and commissioner have recently been advertised at £125,000 and £100,000 pro rata per annum respectively, for a time commitment of three to five days per week. None of the posts are pensionable.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to her Department's winter supplementary estimate for 2008-09, what the likely effect of the financial corrections imposed by the European Commission will be on the level of resources available for other programmes in her Department. [263823]

Mr. Khan: Funding for ERDF financial corrections was found by a mixture of slippage, unallocated budgets and windfall receipts on a number of programmes, without loss of planned outputs.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the annual cost to *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* the Audit Commission of comprehensive area assessments. [264178]

John Healey: The cost of the Audit Commission's work on comprehensive area assessment will be covered, as CPA was, by income from fees paid by local authorities along with grant from my Department. My reply to the hon. Member for Wellingborough (Mr. Bone) on 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1547-48W, explained the annual costs associated with the comprehensive performance assessment including estimates for 2008-09. The Audit Commission published in December 2008, a work programme and scales of fees for 2009-10, and indicative fee proposals up to 2012 for new work on the CAA. This does not set out total cost figures for either themselves or for local authorities, but provides both the fixed and scale elements of the different fees for single tier, county and district councils of audit and inspection work.

Local Government: Carbon Emissions

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions she has had with local authorities on the steps they are taking to reduce levels of carbon dioxide emissions; and if she will make a statement. [263858]

Mr. Iain Wright: The important role of local authorities in reducing levels of carbon emissions is often a topic of my and colleagues' discussions with local authorities and others, most recently in the context of the Heat and Energy Savings Strategy and Community Energy Savings Programme consultations, which the Government published on 12 February.

Local Government: Manpower

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many housing enforcement officers are employed by each local authority in England. [263364]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department does not request this information from local authorities.

Local Government: Pensions

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to increase the retirement pension age for local government pension schemes in line with the planned changes to the state retirement age. [263068]

John Healey: The normal retirement age of the Local Government Pension Scheme in England and Wales is 65 and there are no plans to change this position.

Local Government: Voting Methods

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the geographic scope is of her proposals to legislate to allow for *(a)* remote voting by councillors and *(b)* incentives for electors to vote. [262687]

Mr. Khan: Our proposals on both remote voting for local authority members and incentives for electors to vote relate to England. In the other countries of the United Kingdom these matters are the responsibilities of the Devolved Administrations concerned.

London Thames Gateway Development Corporation: Business Interests

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 19 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1216W, on Thames Gateway Development Corporation Planning Committee: Business Interests, what reference was made to the Corporation's code of practice prior to the appointment of Mr. Alan Clark to the Planning Committee. [263871]

Margaret Beckett: Potential applicants for the role of independent member of the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation (LTGDC) Planning Committee were sent an 'Information for Candidates' pack. This described the role of independent members of that committee, and the skills sought. In addition, the LTGDC planning code of practice was part of the information pack. That code includes a cross reference to the LTGDC code of practice for board members.

Candidates were informed in the information pack that any conflicts of interest would have to be declared in any application. The application form itself asked for potential conflicts of interest to be declared; a separate political activity questionnaire was also required to be completed.

An applicant, if short-listed, would be questioned at interview about any conflicts of interests. If appointed, a member of the committee is required to declare interests on a prescribed form.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1756W, on mortgages: Government assistance, if she will place in the Library a copy of the results of the telephone survey; how the mortgage resale scheme is being publicised; and if she will make a statement. [264088]

Margaret Beckett: The informal telephone survey of 60 local authorities operating the Government's Mortgage Rescue Scheme was conducted by officials at Communities and Local Government on 18 February 2009. The exercise was intended to provide an early indication of take-up among a cross-section of participating local authorities.

Formal monitoring arrangements for all local authorities are currently being finalised, and we expect regional data on the number of households receiving assistance under the scheme to be available from April 2009. Data on the number of completed rescues under the Mortgage Rescue Scheme will be published as part of the Homes and Communities Agency's annual reporting arrangements.

The Mortgage Rescue Scheme is publicised as part of the recently launched 'Real Help Now' campaign, which aims to ensure people are aware of the support available

during the current downturn and how to access it at the earliest opportunity. Details are also available on the Communities and Direct Gov websites and it is referred to in the National Homelessness Advice Service leaflet "Are You Worried about your Mortgage? Get advice now", which has been widely circulated to national advice and support services. Individual local authorities have also published literature publicising the scheme in their area and there has been extensive coverage in national and local media.

Non-Domestic Rates: Business

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if the Government will take steps to provide local authorities with greater powers to set business rates. [262925]

John Healey: There are no plans for Government to give local authorities greater powers to set business rate locally. The Lyons Inquiry into Local Government considered the case for returning business rates to local control. Its analysis concluded that this would not be appropriate at the current time. The Government agreed. However, Sir Michael Lyons did recommend introducing a new local flexibility to set a supplement on business rates.

In October 2007, alongside the 2007 pre-Budget report and comprehensive spending review, the Government published "Business rate supplements: a White Paper". The Business Rate Supplements Bill was then introduced in the House of Commons on 4 December 2008 and gives effect to the Government's proposal in the White Paper. The Bill provides the Greater London Authority and, outside London, upper tier local authorities a discretionary power to levy a supplement on the business rate and retain and invest the proceeds in additional projects aimed at promoting the economic development of local areas.

Private Rented Housing

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden of 28 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 644W, on rented housing: private sector, whether her Department has made an assessment of the effect of the use of credit scoring by landlords and estate agents on those wishing to obtain private rented sector accommodation who previously had their privately-owned property repossessed. [263930]

Mr. Iain Wright: We have not made any such assessment. The release of the results of credit scoring by landlords and estate agents would understandably be restricted by Data Protection issues. We would not expect landlords or agents to discriminate against tenants who had previously had their privately owned property repossessed providing the tenant in question had met the requirements of their tenancy agreement.

Regional Spatial Strategies

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to *(a)* local authorities, *(b)* regional assemblies and *(c)* her Department has been for the production of each regional spatial strategy. [264181]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local authorities play a leading role in developing the regional spatial strategy, both as members of the regional assembly and as individual authorities. Information about the amount of resource they individually contributed to the production of the regional spatial strategy is not held centrally.

Regional assemblies were resourced both by the Department and by their membership, which includes local authorities. Regional assemblies have a range of responsibilities which include preparation of regional spatial strategy. The breakdown of the use of resources for different functions is not held centrally.

The Department provides an additional budget to cover the costs of Examinations in Public and subsequent publication costs for proposed changes to regional spatial strategy. During the past three years this amounted to £1.5 million in 2006-07, £1.4 million in 2007-08 and £1.18 million to date during the current financial year.

Sewers: Fats

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to publish the results of the joint research project with the water industry on the effectiveness of measures to control discharge of grease from hot food premises into drains; and if she will make a statement. [263415]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department have now received a final summary of the research and aims to publish it on its website shortly.

The research was funded principally by the water industry and has enabled them and local authorities to be more confident in their enforcement measures.

In addition, to get direct contact with potential users a technical seminar is being planned to inform environmental health officers and people who maintain sewers about strategies for mitigating nuisance from fats, oil and grease.

Social Rented Housing

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the policy of *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Tenants Services Authority is on the use of cash incentive payments to social tenants to vacate their properties and move to private sector accommodation. [262320]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department for Communities and Local Government expects local authorities to achieve the best use of their social housing stock in seeking to meet local housing needs. Cash incentive schemes can often be an effective measure, especially where family sized accommodation is in high demand, to encourage social tenants to move to smaller social rented properties, or to move into private accommodation. A regulatory reform order which allows local authorities to run schemes without the Secretary of State's consent, came into force on 1 April 2003. The regulatory reform order allows local authorities to set the size of grant payable to take into account the local housing market.

The Government funded HomeBuy scheme helps social tenants to vacate their social home and purchase a home.

The Tenant Services Authority (TSA) expects the housing providers it regulates to provide good quality housing services that are responsive to tenants' characteristics and circumstances. This includes being responsive to local authority housing duties and to national, regional, and local mobility and exchange schemes. Housing providers should promote choice and opportunity and must help to meet need.

Social Rented Housing: Standards

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of homes in the social housing sector which do not meet the Decent Homes standard in each region in England. [264159]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is provided in the table.

Social housing stock summary as at 31 March 2008

Region	RSL homes which fail DHS	LA homes which fail DHS	Total
East Midlands	10,850	42,456	53,306
East of England	26,085	27,896	53,981
London	35,357	140,138	175,495
North East	16,094	55,579	71,673
North West	58,053	36,072	94,125
South East	18,422	99,856	58,278
South West	16,872	24,315	41,187
West Midlands	11,639	50,799	62,438
Yorkshire and the Humber	31,195	72,334	103,529
Total	224,567	489,445	714,012

Sources:
1. Registered social landlord data from the Regulatory Statistical Return Part Q4 (long) Part Q6 (short).
2. Local authority data from the Business Plan Statistical Appendix.

Since 2007 the number of non-decent homes in local authority stock has reduced from 618,000 and from 254,000 in the RSL sector. The overall reduction in the percentage of non-decent homes in the social sector since 2007 is from 21.8 per cent. to 18.0 per cent. in 2008.

Stress

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what surveys her Department has undertaken of *(a)* workplace stress and *(b)* staff morale in the Department in the last 36 months. [263501]

Mr. Khan: Since March 2006, the Department undertook a Health and Wellbeing survey, which incorporated questions on stress in November 2008. We have also undertaken the following staff attitude surveys:

	Survey
2006	ODPM Staff survey
2007	CLG Staff survey 1st Tranche
2007	CLG Staff survey 2nd Tranche
2007	CLG Staff survey 3rd Tranche
2007	Cabinet Office Employee Engagement pilot survey
2008	CLG Pulse survey
2008	CLG SCS Mini survey
2008	Cabinet Office Employee Engagement pilot survey

Supporting People in Surrey Scheme

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding her Department has provided to the Supporting People in Surrey scheme in each year since its inception; and how much such funding she expects to be allocated to the scheme for the remainder of the 2007 comprehensive spending review period. [264374]

Mr. Iain Wright: Since 2003 administering authorities have been allocated funding through the Supporting People programme to support the most vulnerable people in their communities through the provision of housing-related support. The Government have invested over £8.7 billion since the programme began in 2003; and announced a further £4.9 billion funding up to 31 March 2011. Surrey county received a Supporting People programme grant allocation of:

	£
2003-04	19,913,095
2004-05	18,835,049
2005-06	18,509,347
2006-07	18,509,347
2007-08	18,509,347
2008-09	18,509,347
2009-10	18,509,347
2010-11	†17,980,356

† Indicative.

Supporting People Programme

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1284-85W, on homelessness, what definition of housing-related support the Supporting People programme has; who the Supporting People programme aims to help; whether further expenditure is planned; and how many of the 40 court desks providing free legal representation at repossession hearings are available in courts serving Sefton and Liverpool. [262999]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Supporting People programme defines housing-related support as:

> "Support services which are provided to any person for the purpose of developing that person's capacity to live independently in accommodation, or sustaining their capacity to do so".

The Supporting People programme's main aim is to help end social exclusion by preventing crisis and more costly service intervention and enabling vulnerable people to live independently both in their own home and within their community. The Supporting People programme helps a wide range of vulnerable people including: older people, victims of domestic violence, teenage parents, people with learning difficulties, the homeless and those with mental health problems.

In December 2007 we announced a further £4.9 billion funding up to 31 March 2011 for the Supporting People programme.

The Legal Services Commission has lead responsibility for funding court desks. Since 2008 Communities and Local Government have been working closely with the Legal Services Commission to increase coverage of this

service by funding around 40 of the smaller desks throughout England. Communities and Local Government has offered to continue funding these desks in 2009-10.

The court desks serving Sefton and Liverpool are funded by the Legal Services Commission.

Court desks that provide free legal representation at repossession hearings are successful in avoiding immediate repossession in 85 per cent. of cases where people attend court.

Tenancy Deposit Scheme

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate has been made of the take-up rate of the Tenancy Deposit Scheme; and what estimate has been made of the proportion and number of deposits that are unprotected. [263357]

Mr. Iain Wright: Over 1.2 million deposits for tenants with assured shorthold tenancies have been protected since tenancy deposit protection provisions commenced in April 2007. This has protected almost £1 billion of tenant's money. We do not hold figures on the proportion or number of deposits that are unprotected.

Wind Power: Planning Permission

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many occasions in the last three years a planning application for commercial wind turbines has been called in on the grounds that it involves planning issues of more than local importance. [263886]

Mr. Iain Wright: Since 1 January 2006 only one application for a commercial wind turbine has been called in for decision by the Secretary of State. The application was for a single wind turbine at Mill Plain, Glyndebourne, called in on the grounds that the proposal may conflict with national policies on important matters.

JUSTICE

De Menezes Inquest

13. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has concluded its discussions with the Home Office and local authorities on the funding of the Jean Charles de Menezes inquest; and if he will make a statement. [263758]

Mr. Straw: Many representations were received from the local authorities concerned and hon. members representing those boroughs.

I am pleased to tell the House that an agreed sum of just under £2.5 million will be provided exceptionally by the Home Office in full and final settlement of the excess costs that they have incurred.

Drug Use: Prisoners

16. **Richard Ottaway:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of levels of illegal drug use by prisoners. [263761]

Mr. Hanson: I keep the issue of drugs in prison under constant review. A comprehensive range of measures is in place to reduce the supply of drugs into prisons, with levels of drug misuse kept under regular review. The level of drug misuse, as measured by random mandatory drug testing, has reduced by 63 per cent. since the 1996-97 financial year.

House of Lords Reform

17. **Paul Holmes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent progress has been made in discussions on House of Lords reform. [263762]

Mr. Wills: The Government are reflecting on responses they received to their 2008 White Paper. More detailed plans for comprehensive reform will be developed and put to the electorate as a manifesto commitment at the next general election. Comprehensive legislation would then be possible in the next Parliament.

23. **Paddy Tipping:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he last met representatives of other political parties to discuss reform of the House of Lords. [263769]

Mr. Wills: The last such meeting was that with the cross-party group on House of Lords reform on 9 June 2008, before the publication of the White Paper on Lords reform, on 14 July 2008.

Administrative Burdens: Courts

18. **Mr. David Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department has taken to reduce administrative burdens on courts. [263764]

Bridget Prentice: We continually look for ways to reduce administrative burden so that court resources can be focused on activities that make a real difference to the public. We are currently implementing lean ways of working to ensure that unproductive activity is removed from all our processes. In the magistrates courts CJSSS has reduced the average number of hearings and therefore administrative tasks across the criminal justice system. We are also ensuring that more of our services from the civil courts are available online through systems such as money claims online and possession claims online.

Identity Cards: Ministerial Responsibility

19. **Mr. David Heathcoat-Amory:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the list of ministerial responsibilities of November 2008, what responsibilities the Under-Secretary of State in his Department has for policy on identity cards. [263765]

Mr. Malik: My responsibilities have been to ensure that the Ministry of Justice's interests in relation to identity cards are communicated to the Identity and Passport Service, and that the Ministry's operational arms are able to accept the cards as valid forms of identification.

Prisoners: Education and Training

20. **Rob Marris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to increase educational and training opportunities for prisoners. [263766]

Mr. Hanson: Together with the Department for Innovations, Universities and Skills and, Department of Children, Schools and Families we have published a Green Paper and a follow-up Next Steps document setting out the Government's strategy on reducing reoffending through increasing educational and training for offenders, and are working closely together in two regional test beds to trial a range of initiatives focused on employment outcomes.

Inquests

21. **Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received on his Department's plans to make provision for some inquests to be held without juries. [263767]

Bridget Prentice: At Second Reading my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor told the House that the Government were open to suggestions and amendments about these proposals. Many have responded to my invitation from both sides of the House.

In consequence, we are this afternoon tabling amendments to fundamentally recast the proposals. First: the criteria for a Secretary of State certification will be significantly tightened.

Second: The Secretary of State's certificate will trigger consideration by a High Court judge—sitting as the coroner—whether it is necessary to hold an inquest without a jury but the decision will be for the High Court judge, who will be able to consider whether special measures short of a jury would be adequate to protect the sensitive information concerned. There would be a right of appeal to the Court of Appeal.

Pleural Plaques

22. **Mr. Hepburn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) when he expects to publish the Government's response to the consultation paper on pleural plaques; and if he will make a statement; [263768]

(2) when the Government plans to publish its response to his Department's consultation on pleural plaques. [263502]

Bridget Prentice: The consultation on pleural plaques closed on 1 October 2008 and has generated a large number of responses. We are carefully analysing all the submissions received, many of which are detailed and complex, and will seek to publish a response paper outlining the way forward as soon as possible.

Secure Accommodation: Young People

24. **Mr. Vara:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the availability of secure accommodation for young people in the criminal justice system. [263770]

Mr. Hanson: The Youth Justice is responsible for commissioning and purchasing places in the under-18 secure estate. The board is preparing a new Strategy for the Secure Estate, setting out its plans for the financial years to 2012-13. It intends to issue a draft for consultation within the next few months.

Prison Capacity

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to ensure adequate capacity in the prison system. [263759]

Mr. Hanson: The Government have a duty to protect the public from the most serious, dangerous and persistent offenders. Prison is the right place for these people and we will always make sure that we have enough places for these offenders.

The expansion of our building programme following the Carter Review will see a net 15,000 places delivered, expanding capacity to around 96,000 places by 2014.

Community Sentences

Mr. Fiello: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to increase public awareness of community sentences. [263760]

Mr. Malik: The Government are committed to increasing public visibility of community sentences, particularly Community Payback, through involving communities in selection of projects and offenders wearing high visibility community payback vests.

The Justice Seen, Justice Done campaign which launched on 3 March, will further raise awareness of Community Payback and the policing pledge.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many individuals below the age of 18 years have been imprisoned for *(a)* less than six months and *(b)* six months or more for breaching an anti-social behaviour order in each of the last two years. [262050]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I have been asked to reply.

Information held by the Ministry of Justice on the numbers of antisocial behaviour orders breached shows that 986 offenders aged 10 to 17 received a custodial sentence for breaching their antisocial behaviour order between 1 June 2000 and 31 December 2006 (latest available). Of these, 753 received a custodial sentence of up to and including six months, and 233 received a custodial sentence of more than six months. An offender may have breached their ASBO more than once and these data refer to the occasion of the severest sentence received.

Citizenship

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to enhance a sense of Britishness. [263420]

Mr. Wills: Since the publication of the Governance of Britain Green Paper in July 2007, the Government have been conducting an inclusive discussion on citizenship and the values that underpin what it means to be a member of UK society, through a series of online discussions, and local events. We expect to continue this discussion alongside the consultation on our Green Paper on a Bill of Rights and Responsibilities, which we expect to publish very shortly.

Consultants: Expenditure

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the National Offender Management Service and *(c)* HM Prison Service spent on consultancy fees on implementation of the Workforce Modernisation programme in each financial year since 2006-07. [263783]

Mr. Straw: Since its inception in October 2007, the NOMS Workforce Modernisation programme has engaged a number of consultants to assist with the delivery of various aspects of the programme. In FY 2007-2008 the programme spent £530,000 and in FY 2008-09 to end of January 2009 the programme spent £1.92 million, on consultancy services. In all instances, consultancy is only used to cover areas where in-house skills do not exist, is time limited and relates to very clear outcomes for the programme. Necessary workforce changes in NOMS will need to be implemented to support delivery of significant long term efficiency savings within the public sector Prison Service.

Courts: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on the refurbishment of court buildings in each of the last three years. [263051]

Mr. Straw: The following amounts were spent on refurbishment of Crown, county and magistrates court buildings in each of the last three financial years:

Financial year	*Refurbishment expenditure (£ million)*
2006-07	8.0
2007-08	8.8
2008-09	24.0

The large increase during 2008-09 is due to the completion of major refurbishment projects during the year at the Royal Courts of Justice, and at the Crown court at Isleworth.

Departmental Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1703W, on departmental surveys, if he will place in the Library a copy of the results of the most recent staff survey undertaken by his Department. [263642]

Mr. Wills: I will arrange for a copy of the results of the most recent staff survey, the Ministry of Justice Staff Engagement Survey, to be placed in the Libraries of the House shortly.

Domestic Violence: Sentencing

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions for offences related to domestic violence in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland constituency resulted in (i) a custodial sentence and (ii) a community-based sentence in each year since 1997. [263428]

Maria Eagle: The requested information is not available. Offences of domestic violence cannot be separately identified from other violent offences on the courts proceedings database, as only the offence is recorded not the circumstances of the offence.

Driving Offences: Insurance

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prosecutions for offences related to driving without insurance there were in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008; [264230]

(2) what the average fine imposed for driving without insurance was in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008. [264233]

Mr. Malik: The number of proceedings at magistrates courts for the offence of using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks, and the average fine at magistrates courts and the Crown court in England and Wales 2007 is shown in the following table.

Data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

The number of proceedings at magistrates courts and average fine imposed at magistrates courts and the Crown court for offences of using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks, England and Wales, 2007[1, 2, 3]

Offence description	*Proceedings*	*Average fine (£)*	
		Magistrates' courts	*The Crown court*
Using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks	299,559	194	204

[1] Includes offences under the Road Traffic Act 1988 s. 143 (2).
[2] It is known that for some police force areas the reporting of court proceedings, in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis unit.

Elections: Expenditure

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 88-89W, on the Electoral Register, how much was provided by his Department to the returning officer in each local authority to meet costs incurred for administering parliamentary and European parliamentary elections in each of the last three years; and what the name of each returning officer was. [263429]

Mr. Wills: The costs incurred by returning officers for administering parliamentary and European parliamentary elections are paid by the Government out of the Consolidated Fund under section 29 of the Representation of the People Act (RPA) 1983 and section 6 of the European Parliamentary Elections Act 2002, respectively. Funding for these elections is not made available to returning officers on an ongoing basis—the Ministry of Justice is responsible for the distribution of the funding to the relevant returning officers for these elections, including by-elections, as and when they are held.

The funding covers the necessary costs incurred by returning officers for administering the election in the area for which they act, which will include:

the preparation and printing of ballot papers, poll cards and other election stationery;

hire and use of polling stations and count venues;

equipment needed for the election, such as ballot boxes; and

postage and telephone costs; staffing costs.

Returning officers are also paid a fee for their services in administering the election.

In the last three years, the following amounts have been paid to the returning officers for the constituencies tabled for administering the parliamentary by-elections that have been held in those constituencies:

Constituency (date of by-election)	*Amount (£000)*
Blaenau Gwent (29 June 2006)	85.9
Bromley and Chislehurst (29 June 2006)	110.9
Ealing, Southall (19 July 2007)	148.6
Sedgefield (19 July 2007)	120.2
Crewe and Nantwich (22 May 2008)	[1]66
Henley (26 June 2008)	[1]54.5
Haltemprice and Howden (10 July 2008)	[1]78.3

[1] These figures are subject to final confirmation and may change.

No European parliamentary elections have been held in the last three years.

The names of individual returning officers are not held centrally. Under section 28 of the RPA 1983, the duties of the returning officer for constituencies at a parliamentary election will be discharged by the Electoral Registration Officer appointed by the local authority (as acting returning officer).

Magistrates' Courts

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were sentenced in each magistrates court in England and Wales on average each day in the latest period for which figures are available; and on average how many such sentences were custodial. [263355]

Maria Eagle: The requested information is not available, detailed data quality checks are not carried out at individual court level, making the data unsuitable for dissemination.

Magistrates: Cumbria

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many serving magistrates there are in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland constituency. [263711]

Mr. Straw: The number of serving magistrates in Cumbria is 272 which includes the area of Copeland.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many magistrates are needed in order to meet the needs of the courts in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland constituency in the current year. [263715]

Mr. Straw: In the current year 288 magistrates are needed fully to meet the needs of Cumbria which includes the area of Copeland.

Office for Criminal Justice Reform: Temporary Employment

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been spent by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform on *(a)* agency and *(b)* temporary staff in each financial year since its inception. [259773]

Mr. Straw: The Office for Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR) was established in July 2004 as a trilateral organisation reporting to the Home Secretary, the Attorney-General and the Lord Chancellor. It transferred to the Ministry of Justice when it was established on 9 May 2007.

OCJR's spend on agency and temporary staff in each year since 2004-05 is shown in the following table. It is not possible to separate agency from temporary staff.

	Agency and temporary staff
Financial year	
2004-05	173,670
2005-06	1,293,810
2006-07	675,145
2007-08	994,724
Year to date	
March-January 2009	452,954

Police Custody: Compensation

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many compensation claims for loss or damage to prisoners' property left in the custody of the Prison Service were made in the last year for which figures are available; and what amount of compensation was claimed. [263840]

Mr. Straw: In the period 1 April 2008 to 11 March 2009, 130 compensation claims were made by prisoners in respect of lost or damaged property. 79 of those were filed in the small claims court. Information is not available for the amount claimed, but 49 of the 130 claims have now been settled for a total of £6,139. Claims made through the internal request/complaints procedure or through the prisons and probation ombudsman are no recorded centrally.

Public Consultation

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many public consultations his Department and its predecessor conducted in each of the last five years. [263951]

Mr. Straw: The departmental annual reports published by the Ministry of Justice and by its predecessor the Department for Constitutional Affairs provide the following information on public consultations conducted in the last five years:

	Public consultations conducted
2004-05	[1]32
2005-06	[1]29
2006-07	[1]26

	Public consultations conducted
2007-08	*30

[1] Department for Constitutional Affairs Annual Report 2004-05.
[2] Department for Constitutional Affairs Annual Report 2005-06.
[3] Department for Constitutional Affairs Annual Report 2006-07.
[4] Ministry of Justice Annual Report 2007-08.

Between 1 April 2008 and 12 March 2009, a total of 31 public consultations were conducted by my Department.

Re-offenders

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his most recent estimate is of the re-offending rates for convicted prisoners who served *(a)* less than six months, *(b)* between six months and one year, *(c)* between one year and five years and *(d)* five years and over in prison. [264160]

Mr. Hanson: Information about re-offending rates cannot be provided broken down by length of time served. The Police National Computer database, which is the source for statistics on re-offending, only holds data on the length of prison sentence awarded, and not the length of time that an offender serves of this sentence. We do publish re-offending statistics broken down by the length of prison sentence awarded, as shown in the following table. This table shows the proportion of offenders re-offending within one year of discharge and the number of offences committed per 100 offenders, for offenders leaving custody in the first quarter of 2006. These are the most recently available data.

	Number of offenders	Proportion of offenders offending (percentage)	Number of offences per 100 offenders
Custody (total)	14,380	46.5	208.4
Less than 12 months	9,103	58.8	282.7
12 months to less than two years	2,028	29.6	101.9
Two years to less than four years	2,013	25.9	80.5
Four years and over	1,236	17.3	45.0

The latest adult re-offending statistics, "Re-offending of adults: results from the 2006 cohort", were published on 4 September 2008. These indicate that we have had real success in reducing the re-offending of offenders released from custody. Between 2000 and 2006 the number of re-offences committed by offenders released from custody has fallen 15.1 per cent. from 245.5 to 208.4 offences per 100 offenders.

Further information on the one year rates of re-offending can be found in:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm

NOMS is working with the Ministry of Justice to review provision for the short sentence group.

The Integrated Offender Management projects are testing a new approach to working with repeat adult and young offenders.

Restorative Justice

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what recent assessment he has made of the effects of the implementation of restorative justice schemes on victims of crime; [263647]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of restorative justice schemes in reducing rates of re-offending amongst adult offenders; [263648]

(3) what recent steps he has taken to assist the implementation of restorative justice programmes in respect of adult offenders. [263649]

Maria Eagle: Our assessment of the effectiveness of restorative justice for adults following the fourth and final report of the evaluation of the crime reduction programme restorative justice pilots is that it can deliver high levels of victim satisfaction and can be a positive service for victims if delivered appropriately and sensitively. It may also help to reduce re-offending.

We have already published "Best Practice Guidance for Restorative Practitioners", which provided the basis for National Occupational Standards, a benchmark for the quality of delivery of restorative justice. We have also produced web-based guidance for local criminal justice boards, "Restorative Justice: Helping to meet Local Needs". The latest research findings, together with the best practice guidance and the guidance to local criminal justice boards, have been widely disseminated, including to regional offender managers and regional commissioners, so that they can be taken into account in future business planning.

We are now considering what further encouragement we can provide to support the continued growth of adult restorative justice, in particular as a means of improving victim satisfaction with the criminal justice process. The National Criminal Justice Board has encouraged the local criminal justice boards to consider how restorative justice approaches for adult offenders could contribute to delivering on their priorities, particularly on victim and public confidence, and be included in their delivery plans. We are currently working with stakeholders, including the Restorative Justice Consortium, to develop a victim focused adult restorative justice strategy which will build on the learning from the pilots.

Supreme Court: Logos

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost of creating the emblem for the Supreme Court was. [263842]

Mr. Straw: The total cost of the design and development of the emblem is £26,200. This cost includes design and development by heraldic artist Yvonne Holton; redrawing and presentation to The Queen by Garter King of Arms; and development of the symbol in an electronic and adaptable format by design consultants. All costs are within original estimates announced by the Ministry of Justice on 14 June 2007.

Young Offenders

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when all pre-sentence reports for young offenders will include an assessment of the need for parenting support. [264028]

Mr. Hanson: National Standards for Youth Justice set out what must be included in pre-sentence reports. These are currently being revised in preparation for the implementation later this year of the Youth Rehabilitation Order, the new community order for under-18s, with the

scaled approach, the Youth Justice Board's new risk based assessment. The revision will require the pre-sentence report to include an assessment of the need for parenting support and whether a recommendation should be made to the court for a parenting order to be made.

Young People: Remand in Custody

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost of detaining juveniles *(a)* under court-ordered secure remand and *(b)* otherwise remanded in custody was in the last year for which figures are available. [264099]

Mr. Hanson: I refer the hon. Member to my answer to him on 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 361-362W.

The Youth Justice Board have calculated that in 2007-08 the total cost of detaining young people under a court ordered secure remand was £19,218,653. This includes contributions from both local authorities and the Youth Justice Board.

In respect of those young people remanded into custody there is no distinction made in the Youth Justice Board's service level agreement with the Prison Service between the cost of remands to custody and the cost of custodial sentences. However, based on the average costs of a bed in a young offenders institution and the average number of young people remanded to custody, the Youth Justice Board have estimated that the total cost of remands to custody in-2007-08 was £26.982,000.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Audit: Licensing

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many auditors are licensed by each of the recognised supervisory bodies. [263435]

Ian Pearson: The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform does not hold this information. I have asked the Director of the Professional Oversight Board of the Financial Reporting Council to write directly to my hon. Friend.

Business Links: Sutton

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many Business Link staff were assigned to the London Borough of Sutton in each of the last five years; how many *(a)* contacts and *(b)* cases were recorded by Business Link in the London Borough of Sutton in each of the last five years; what steps are being taken by Business Link to support business in Sutton; and if he will make a statement. [262121]

Ian Pearson: Business Link in London (BLiL) delivers across London and does not structure its service delivery staff to cover specific London boroughs.

The BLiL company has only existed for the last two years and data relating to previous years are not available. There are no data available for contacts other than when assistance is provided.

In the last two years in Sutton the number of business support cases recorded by BLiL are as follows:

over 2,000 established small and medium sized companies

over 350 start-ups,

over 1,000 pre start-ups

1,200 people being given generic business advice.

In addition, during the last two years BLiL has worked closely with Sutton's business community and strategic partners. These have included the local authority and the London borough of Sutton Employment and Skills Partnership.

BLiL has also worked with the London borough of Sutton to help develop their 10-point action plan on business support and is actively supporting the implementation of this plan. This includes, the promotion of advice and support for small businesses. In collaboration with BLiL and Business Focus, the borough will hold surgeries offering business support and a diagnostic service.

Business: Advisory Services

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) how many agencies are funded by the Government to provide advice and assistance to businesses; [263574]

(2) what mechanisms are in place to monitor the accuracy of the information provided by business support agencies to businesses. [263575]

Ian Pearson: Business Link is the primary free advice and support service for businesses in England. Over 30,000 businesses have already taken advantage of a free health check. In addition to the extensive information and advice available, Business Link provides a brokerage service to more specialist support. Business Link is also the main access point for the new streamlined Solutions for Business portfolio, which brings together all publicly-funded support under an easily recognisable brand identity; and provides access to the specialist services of other organisations whether in the public sector, such as the Manufacturing Advisory Service, or the private sector. Business Link's directory of business organisations can be searched online. Businesses in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland can also access local business support networks.

The Business Link service in England is delivered by operators under contracts let by the nine regional development agencies. Business link services are delivered under a framework agreement that describes the range of services that should be delivered. In addition (www.businesslink.gov.uk) website content managers and lead policy Departments work closely, using formal procedures, to ensure all information available to businesses on the website is accurate and up to date.

Carbon Emissions

Gregory Barker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the proposed timetable for the publication of the Government's low-carbon industrial strategy is. [255204]

Ian Pearson: At the Low Carbon Industrial summit, jointly held with the CBI and TUC on 6 March, the Government launched their vision for a low carbon future and a new interactive website (www.hmg.gov.uk/lowcarbon). This was the first step in a process of engagement with business which will ultimately lead to a low carbon industrial strategy being published in the summer.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many staff in his Department *(a)* were disciplined and *(b)* had their employment terminated as a result of a poor sickness record in each of the last 12 months. [262244]

Mr. McFadden: Genuine sickness absence is not considered a disciplinary matter in the Department. Sickness absence is handled under separate poor attendance procedures. As such no staff have been disciplined as a result of a poor sickness record within the past year.

No staff have had their employment terminated as a result of poor sickness absence in the past year.

Departmental Domestic Visits

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many post offices the Secretary of State has visited on official business in the last 12 months. [261145]

Mr. McFadden: I have visited two post offices in the course of official business in the last 12 months.

Departmental Equality

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what information his Department holds on the *(a)* sex, *(b)* ethnicity, *(c)* age, *(d)* disability, *(e)* sexual orientation and *(f)* religion or belief of its staff; and what assessment he has made of his Department's performance against its targets relating to diversity in its workforce. [246027]

Mr. McFadden: Gender and age information is routinely maintained on the staff database.

Staff are able to individually record ethnicity and disability on the staff database, on a voluntary basis. Currently 79 per cent. of staff have chosen to do so. The facility to record sexual orientation and religion or belief will be added during 2009.

Anonymised information on ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation and religion or belief is also collected annually as part of the Department's staff opinion survey and used as part of the assessment of the Department's performance against its targets relating to diversity in the work force.

There are a number of metrics used by the Department to assess performance against achievement of the priorities in the Diversity Strategy. These targets include numerical representation of diverse groups within the senior civil service, the results of external benchmarking exercises and the results of specific groups participating in the staff opinion survey. The current Diversity Strategy was agreed and launched in October 2008 and progress is due to be formally reviewed in May 2009.

Current progress towards targets for representation in the senior civil service is as follows:

Senior civil service diversity representation and targets

	1 April 2008 actual			*1 December 2008 actual*	*1 April 2011 targets*
	Number minority staff	*Number of staff at Band*	*Current percentage*	*Percentage*	*Percentage*
SCS women	65	176	37	38	40
SCS women PB2and above	12	41	30	30	34
SCS BME	7	176	4	3	5
SCS Disabled	8	176	5	7	6

Economic Situation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what *(a)* summits, *(b)* conferences and *(c)* seminars his Department has hosted since January 2008 at which a primary subject of discussion was the effect of the economic situation on matters within his Department's responsibility. [258860]

Mr. McFadden: This Department's core focus is on business and economic issues. Face to face stakeholder engagement plays a key part in helping us to understand and tackle the issues facing different organisations as a result of the current downturn. It is not possible to provide a complete centralised list of all our work on the economic situation, as this is a broad subject area and could potentially cover a wide range of different areas of the Department.

However, in terms of events hosted in our Conference Centre at 1 Victoria Street since January 2008, this Department has hosted three summits, 16 conferences and eight seminars at which the primary focus was the effects of the economic situation on matters within its responsibility.

These pertained to a broad range of different issues within Ministers' briefs—from small business to consumer protection and the automotive industry. It also includes inter-departmental meetings between Whitehall economic experts.

Electrical Equipment: Waste Disposal

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effect of trends in commodity prices on waste electrical and electronic equipment treatment facilities; and if he will make a statement. [262885]

Ian Pearson: No direct assessment has been made of the effect on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) treatment facilities of falling commodity prices. However, concerns have been expressed by a number of organisations about the difficulties in issuing evidence of collection, treatment and reprocessing of WEEE as a

result in a fall in commodity prices and in particular a fall in demand for metal and plastics. To alleviate cash flow problems in the short-term, this Department has introduced interim arrangements to allow the issue of evidence for metal and plastics at the stage it has completed all the necessary treatment processes.

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment for benchmarking purposes his Department has made of the implementation of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive in other EU member states. [251756]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 5 February 2009]:* The UK has kept in close contact with the European Commission and other member states in the development and implementation of the waste electrical and electronic equipment directive across the EU. No formal review of all member states' WEEE systems has been undertaken by BERR at this time.

Fire Services: Working Hours

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions Ministers in his Department have had with members of the European Parliament on the effect on retained firefighters of the removal of the UK opt-out on the Working Time Directive. [263508]

Mr. McFadden: The UK Government recognise that losing the individual's right to opt-out of the 48 hour working week as set by the Working Time Directive, would have a detrimental effect on the hours which firefighters working the Retained Duty System could be available for duty, especially the substantial numbers who work full-time for their primary employer. Many other workers also use this important flexibility and so we are firmly of the view that this right should remain. We, through Council, have pressed this point during informal conciliation discussions with the European Parliament and will continue to do so as the formal process begins later this month.

I am aware of the widespread concern on this issue among retained firefighters, and both from this Department and the Department for Communities and Local Government have worked very closely with the Retained Firefighters' Union and will continue to keep them informed throughout the negotiations.

Furniture: Credit

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will take steps to assist the furniture industry adjust to the withdrawal of credit insurance. [255833]

Ian Pearson: This Department is providing a range of support to industry, including the furniture sector to help companies during the current recession. For more information see:

http://www.real.helpnow.gov.uk/

Motor Industry: Government Assistance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when the European Commission notified his Department of the decision to give clearance for the commencement of the proposed scheme for *(a)* loans and *(b)* loan guarantees for the automotive industry. [261613]

Ian Pearson: The European Commission approvals for "Temporary Aid for the production of green products" and "Temporary Aid in the form of Loan Guarantees" were received by BERR on 27 February 2009.

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the monetary value is of secured loans to the automotive industry which have been facilitated by his Department. [261387]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 6 March 2009]:* The Automotive Assistance Programme (AAP) received EC State Aid approval on 27 February 2009. No loans to the automotive industry have yet been offered under the AAP. A seminar was held with industry and bank representatives on 11 March to explain the programme in detail and BERR expects to receive applications shortly which it will assess as speedily as possible.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will assist the British automotive industry by introducing a programme of wage compensation. [263538]

Ian Pearson: We will continue to assess whether such a proposal can add to the real help we are already providing for industry and the people who work in it—including the up to £100 million funding under 'Train to Gain' that automotive firms can access.

Motor Industry: Manpower

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will examines the merits of the introduction of wage compensation measures as part of training packages for automotive industry workers presently on short-time working. [261642]

Mr. McFadden: The case for the introduction of training and wage subsidies has also been put to Government by the automotive sector and others including the TUC and the Federation of Small Businesses. We will continue to assess whether such proposals can add to the real help we are already providing for industry and the people who work in it.

Motor Vehicles: EU Law

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will hold discussions with *(a)* his EU counterparts and *(b)* the European Commission on the implications for EU competition regulations of direct financial subsidies from the (i) French, (ii) German and (iii) Italian governments to their car manufacturers. [262390]

Ian Pearson: At the EU Competitiveness Council on 5 March, I and my EU counterparts and the European Commission discussed and agreed conclusions on cars and on the importance of action that is consistent with Single Market rules.

Regional Development Agencies: Non-Profit Making Associations

Margaret Moran: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what guidance he has provided to regional development agencies on their support for social enterprise in the current economic climate; [257038]

(2) what proportion of the support to small and medium-sized enterprises his Department has instructed regional development agencies to provide in the current economic climate is to be directed to support social enterprise. [257039]

Mr. McFadden: Social enterprises, both at start-up and when established, can access the full range of business support products available through the Business Link network managed by the Regional Development Agencies. Business Link does not directly deliver business support programmes but acts as an impartial gateway to all publicly funded and private sector business support. For the 12-month period ending 12 September 2008 Business Link helped 146,000 social enterprises. This equates to 16 per cent. of the overall Business Link customer base. The Government does not set RDAs detailed targets for particular types of expenditure.

Royal Mail: Privatisation

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many expressions of interest the Government have received on the partial sale of Royal Mail; and from whom such expressions have been received. [263668]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 13 March 2009]:* Government have received a number of expressions of interest regarding entering into a partnership with Royal Mail. At this stage of the process only TNT has made their interest public. For commercial confidentiality reasons it would not be appropriate to reveal details on who else wishes to explore the possibility of entering into a partnership with Royal Mail.

Small Firms Loan Guarantee Scheme

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many applications for funding under the Government's Small Firms Guarantee Scheme have been made by small firms based in *(a)* Southend West constituency, *(b)* Southend, *(c)* Essex and *(d)* the Metropolitan Police area of London in each of the last five years; what recent representations he has received on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [250231]

Ian Pearson: For figures on the breakdown on SFLG loans made to businesses within each of the English regions including east of England and London, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1400W, to the hon. Member for Rutland and Melton (Alan Duncan).

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many successful applications by small firms based in *(a)* Southend West constituency, *(b)* Southend, *(c)* Essex and *(d)* the Metropolitan Police area of London to the Small Firms Loan Guarantee were valued at (i) £5,000 to £20,000, (ii) £20,001 to £50,000, (iii) £50,001 to £100,000, (iv) £100,001 to £150,000, (v) £150,001 to £200,000 and (vi) £200,001 to £250,000 in each of the last five years. [250232]

Ian Pearson: For figures on the number of loans by value made under SFLG in the last five years, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1399W, to the hon. Member for Rutland and Melton (Alan Duncan). Figures on loans by value are not sub-divided by region.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many projects have been supported by the Small Firms Loan Guarantee scheme in each region in each year since 2003-04; what the monetary value of the support was in each case; and what proportion of the total annual support provided by the scheme each represented. [250233]

Ian Pearson: For figures on the value and volume of loans made under SFLG in each of the last five years, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1947W, to the hon. Member for Rutland and Melton (Alan Duncan). Figures on the distribution of SFLG lending across all regions of England for financial years 2000-01 to 2006-07 are set out in the Small Firms Loan Guarantee Annual Report to Parliament 2006-07. Copies of the Annual Reports are placed in both Libraries of the House.

TNT

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have held recent discussions with TNT on a partial sale of Royal Mail. [263011]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 12 March 2009]:* This Department has had discussions with a number of potential partners for Royal Mail in recent weeks, including TNT.

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have held discussions with TNT on the General Logistics Service. [263012]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 12 March 2009]:* This Department has had discussions with a number of potential partners for Royal Mail in recent weeks, including TNT. GLS is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Royal Mail Group and has been discussed in that context.

Written Answers to Questions

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SCOTLAND

Defence Procurement: Fife

6. **Lindsay Roy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Defence on the awarding of defence procurement contracts to companies operating in Fife; and if he will make a statement. [263303]

Ann McKechin: The awarding of defence procurement contracts are a matter for the Secretary of State for Defence. Contracts are awarded in accordance with public procurement policy.

Banking

7. **Mark Lazarowicz:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with representatives of banks on the future of banking in Scotland. [263304]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I am in regular discussion with bank representatives. The Government's Recapitalisation and Asset Protection Scheme will help in stabilising the banking system.

9. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues and the Scottish Executive on the state of the banking sector in Scotland. [263307]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I am in regular discussion with ministerial colleagues and the Scottish Executive. The Scottish banking system is now well placed to combat these difficult times after the significant intervention by this Government to stabilise the market.

Road Bridge: River Forth

8. **Michael Connarty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Scottish Executive on Government funding for the second road bridge over the River Forth. [263305]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Chief Secretary to the Treasury and I met Scottish Government Ministers on 4 March. We had a very positive and constructive meeting. I convened a successful meeting between the Chief Secretary to the Treasury and Scottish Government Finance Ministers to discuss funding of the new Forth river crossing.

Energy Generation

10. **Mr. Donohoe:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on support for the generation of energy in Scotland. [263308]

Ann McKechin: My right hon. Friend and I hold regular discussions with ministerial colleagues across Government about a wide range of issues.

Businesses

11. **Mr. Crabb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the First Minister on the prospects for businesses in Scotland. [263309]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Last week I had a constructive meeting with the First Minister, together with the CBI and STUC, where we discussed a range of issues with the aim of providing a coherent Scottish response to the economic downturn.

Business Support

12. **Mr. David Hamilton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment he has made of the support from central Government required by businesses in Scotland during the recession. [263310]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I maintain a regular dialogue with business leaders in Scotland on the economy to inform my membership of the National Economic Council. Since the start of the year the Government have introduced a range of measures to help increase liquidity and ease credit conditions for business.

Economic Conditions

13. **Danny Alexander:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what his most recent assessment is of the state of the Scottish economy. [263311]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Scottish economy has not been immune from the global economic difficulties. In response the UK Government delivered a £2 billion fiscal boost as part of the Chancellor's pre-Budget report last year, which is in addition to the continued substantial interventions to support the Scottish banks.

Economic Growth

14. **John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with the First Minister on the level of economic growth in Scotland. [263312]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I had constructive and helpful talks concerning the Scottish economy with the First Minister last week at a meeting also attended by representatives from CBI Scotland and STUC.

Broadcasting: Conferences

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland where his Department's broadcasting summit scheduled to take place on 19 March 2009 will be held; which *(a)* organisations and *(b)* individuals have been invited to attend; whether it will be open to the public; what the agenda items are; and who the speakers will be. [264079]

Ann McKechin *[holding answer 16 March 2009]:* The Secretary of State for Scotland and the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport will hold a meeting

at the Glasgow Science Centre, Pacific Quay, Glasgow, with representatives from various broadcasting organisations, production companies and interested stakeholders, including from STV, BBC Scotland, Channel 4, ITV plc., MG Alba, Ofcom, Scottish Enterprise and relevant trade unions.

The event is by invitation only. The event will provide an opportunity to help forge a public service broadcasting culture fit for future challenges.

Departmental Absenteeism

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many staff of his Department were recorded absent for non-medical reasons on *(a)* 2 February 2009 and *(b)* 3 February 2009; what estimate he has made of the (i) cost to his Department and (ii) number of working hours lost as a result of such absence; and what guidance his Department issued to staff in respect of absence on those days. [260569]

Ann McKechin: Information on the number of staff who were absent for non-medical reasons on 2 February 2009 and 3 February 2009 is not available. The Scotland Office, which is part of the Ministry of Justice, does not hold records centrally of non-medical absences.

General guidance was issued on the day to all managers and staff about the disruption caused by the extreme weather conditions where normal travel arrangements were affected by the weather.

Departmental Lost Property

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what property has been lost or stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what the estimated cost was of replacement of such property. [263123]

Ann McKechin: No property has been reported as lost or stolen in the last 12 months.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many and what percentage of letters sent by his Department were given to *(a)* the Royal Mail and *(b)* another postal services provider for delivery in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [259977]

Ann McKechin: The Royal Mail carried the great majority of letters and parcels sent by the Scotland Office in the last 12 months. A precise breakdown is not available.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Floods: Property Development

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what powers the Environment Agency has to waive restrictions on building in flood risk areas; and if he will make a statement. [264360]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency has no powers either to restrict or waive restrictions on building in flood risk areas. The Environment Agency is a consultee in the planning process, providing technical advice and information on the flood risk implications of development proposals. The Environment Agency may object to developments that do not comply with Planning Policy Statement 25—Development and Flood Risk, but the final planning decision rests with the local planning authority.

Landfill Tax

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will increase the amount that is given to voluntary organisations from landfill tax receipts. [263690]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

Decisions on the value of the Landfill Communities Fund for 2009 and beyond will be taken as part of the Budget process.

National Parks

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department plans to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. [263388]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 16 March 2009]:* We intend to hold a number of events throughout the year to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949—the first of which will take place on 16 March when the Secretary of State will open the Broads Authority's new offices in Norwich.

The aim of the programme will be to celebrate and to increase awareness of the contribution our protected landscapes and access rights to our national well-being, as well as highlighting how they can contribute to future challenges such as climate change.

Noise and Air Pollution

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what datasets on *(a)* noise and *(b)* air pollution which contain data by (i) constituency, (ii) local authority area, (iii) county and (iv) region his Department maintains. [262936]

Huw Irranca-Davies: On noise, my Department commissioned a national noise incidence study in 1990 which surveyed the environmental noise levels based on 24-hour noise measurements outside 1,000 dwellings in England and Wales. This study was repeated in 2000-01 when DEFRA and the devolved Administrations commissioned an extended survey of 1,020 dwellings and included Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Other noise pollution datasets held by the Secretary of State are those created to fulfil the first round mapping requirements of Directive 2002/49/EC (Relating to the Assessment and Management of Environmental Noise). The datasets include modelled noise levels from roads and railways in the 23 first round agglomerations (defined as urban areas with populations greater than 250,000 and a certain population density), major roads

elsewhere in England with greater than six million vehicle passages per annum; major railways in England with more than 60,000 train passengers annually and major airports with more than 50,000 aircraft movements annually (except for training on light aircraft). In addition, mapping was carried out for some other airports close to first round agglomerations and for larger industrial installations within first round agglomerations.

The mapping was completed in 2007 and the maps are available on the website:

www.noisemapping.defra.gov.uk

The datasets are not currently broken down by constituency, local authority area, county or region.

On air, data from air pollution monitoring sites, calculated statistics and exceedance statistics relating to Air Quality Strategy objectives and EU Limit Values are available via

www.airquality.co.uk

at the following administrative levels:

Local Authority
UK Zone
UK Agglomeration
Government Region
Country.

Data are not currently listed by constituency.

In addition, maps of air pollution are available individually for each local authority. These are made available at:

http://www.airquality.co.uk/archive/laqm/tools.php?tool=background06

Finally, the annual air quality assessments undertaken for the EU air quality directives are reported by zone, which correspond to Government office regions in England if the relevant agglomerations are included back in.

Rodents: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many reports of rodent infestation there have been in Lancashire in each of the last three years. [264142]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA does not collect statistics on the number of reported infestations of rodents. This information should be available from the local authorities concerned.

WALES

Performing Arts

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether his Department has engaged any *(a)* actors, *(b)* musicians and *(c)* other performers to support its initiatives over the last five years. [264054]

Mr. Paul Murphy: No.

PRIME MINISTER

Ministers: Pay

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister if he will make it his policy to reclaim redundancy payments made to Ministers leaving the Government if they are subsequently appointed to a ministerial position in the same Parliament. [264337]

The Prime Minister: Severance pay is payable in accordance with section 4 of the Ministerial and other Pensions and Salaries Act 1991.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Charter Flights

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times private charter companies have been used to transport armed forces personnel to and from operations in each of the last three years; and how much was spent on this in each of those years. [263834]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information available is provided in the following table:

	FY	
	2007-08	*2008-09*
Charter flights undertaken	484	531
Charter flights planned	n/a	26
Cost (£ million)	34	[1]51

[1] Estimate

Note:
Each flight constitutes a single journey.

Data for 2006-07 are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Manpower

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place a copy of the latest DASA working patterns survey in the Library. [258880]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Arrangements will be made for a copy of the 2007-08 DASA Working Patterns Survey to be placed in the Library of the House shortly.

Armed Forces: Motor Vehicles

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many RB44 heavy utility trucks are in service; and what their expected out of service date is. [263555]

Mr. Quentin Davies: There are currently 496 Truck Utility Heavy (TUH) RB44 vehicles in service. The expected out of service date of the TUH fleet is 2012.

Departmental Data Protection

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department uses WPA2 encryption protocol on all its wireless networks. [259792]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Information is a key asset to Government and its correct handling is vital to the delivery of public services and to the integrity of HMG. The Security Policy Framework, the Data Handling Report and the National Information Assurance Strategy produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic

framework for protecting information that Government handle and put in place a set of mandatory measures which Departments must adhere to.

The Department follows CESG guidance on the use of the Wi-Fi Protected Access 2 (WPA2) communications security protocols in order to protect wireless networks carrying protectively marked (up to RESTRICTED/IL3) traffic. The configuration and operation standards for WPA2 are set out in CESG's Infosec Manual Y, Use of WPA2 Wireless Security in Government Systems. The Department is also compliant with HMG IA Standard No 4—Communication, Security and Cryptography for the encryption of data.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what auditing his Department undertakes to ensure that IT security policies are being followed; and on how many occasions *(a)* IT security policies have been breached by employees and *(b)* a member of staff has been sanctioned for a breach of such policies in the last 12 months. [259793]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Information is a key asset to Government and its correct handling is vital to the delivery of public services and to the integrity of HMG. The Security Policy Framework, the Data Handling Report and the National Information Assurance Strategy produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic framework for protecting information that Government handle and put in place a set of mandatory measures which Departments must adhere to.

The Department carries out a compliance regime including self assessment, accreditation, assurance reporting, audit and review to ensure that security policies are followed. IT Security Policies are audited across the MOD at all layers of the organisation. Compliance Inspections are conducted at unit level by security and technical survey teams, augmented by assurance and self assessment activities directed by the principal security advisor's teams. The Defence Security Safety Assurance Division undertakes functions that provide strategic assurance on the adequacy, efficacy and implementation of the requisite controls and policies for 'IT Security', in the form of audits, penetration tests, vulnerability analysis testing and from through life IS Accreditation processes. These provide assurance on the status of the Departments IT Security of both in service equipment and that in development. Additionally the Defence Internal Audit has undertaken a variety of IT Security Audits, both themed and pan-MOD.

Investigations into security incidents are generally dealt with at local unit level and the details of individual breaches of policy by individuals are not recorded centrally; it would not be possible to provide these details without incurring disproportionate cost.

Depending upon the circumstances, a range of sanctions are available including disciplinary or administrative action, and in extreme or persistent cases, termination of employment/services and, if appropriate, criminal proceedings.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's IT security hierarchy. [259794]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Information is a key asset to Government and its correct handling is vital to the delivery of public services and to the integrity of HMG. The Security Policy Framework, the Data Handling Report and the National Information Assurance Strategy produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic framework for protecting information that Government handle and put in place a set of mandatory measures which Departments must adhere to.

It is not in the interest of the security of the Department, or that of the public, to disclose detailed information pertaining to the Department's security hierarchy. Disclosing such information would enable criminals and those who would attempt to cause disruptive threats to the Department to deduce how to conduct attacks and therefore potentially enhance their capability to carry out such attacks.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what scanning for vulnerabilities his Department conducts of each of its IT devices; what method is used for IT device scans; and how many vulnerabilities have been detected as a result of such scans in the last 12 months. [259795]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Information is a key asset to Government and its correct handling is vital to the delivery of public services and to the integrity of HMG. The Security Policy Framework, the Data Handling Report and the National Information Assurance Strategy produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic framework for protecting information that Government handle and put in place a set of mandatory measures which departments must adhere to.

It is not in the interest of the security of the Department, or that of the public, to disclose detailed information pertaining to electronic breaches of security of department's IT systems. Disclosing such information would enable criminals and those who would attempt to cause disruptive threats to the department to deduce how to conduct attacks and therefore potentially enhance their capability to carry out such attacks.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to paragraph 1.43 of the Final Report on Data Handling Procedures in Government, June 2008, whether his Department has initiated a specific review into its handling and management of information since June 2008. [263361]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In response to the Data Handling Procedures in Government and Burton Reviews, the Ministry of Defence has established a dedicated implementation team which has commissioned a range of activities and reviews, including against the emerging Information Assurance Maturity Model, the Department's progress in implementing the recommendations of the reviews.

A separate, more broadly-based review of the Department's Security and Accreditation framework will report shortly.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to paragraph 1.43 of the Final Report on Data Handling Procedures in Government, June 2008, whether his Department has introduced training and awareness programmes for its staff since June 2008. [263362]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Yes. Since June 2008 The Ministry of Defence has significantly enhanced its training and awareness programmes for security and data handling, building on a broader security awareness programme launched in early 2008. The Department has worked closely with the Cabinet Office and other Departments to implement a core Computer Based Training (CBT) package to provide awareness of individuals' responsibilities in handling data, particularly personal data. Data handling training is mandated for all staff, either through the CBT package or, for military staff below the rank of Sergeant/Petty Officer by means either of the CBT or a group briefing.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to paragraph 2.11 of the Final Report on Data Handling Procedures in Government, June 2008, whether his Department has implemented the Information Commissioner's recommendation for privacy impact assessments. [263616]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Yes.

Future Large Aircraft

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1723W, on future large aircraft, who is liable under the contract to pay for any costs arising from extra development and deferred delivery dates. [264143]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Under the terms of the existing fixed price contract the supplier is liable for any costs incurred in delivering the required performance levels specified within the contract.

HMS Victory

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what archaeological and heritage advice the Disposal Services Agency sought before authorisation was given to Odyssey Marine Exploration to return to the site suspected to be that of HMS Victory to recover guns. [263700]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Following initial notification of the possible location of the wreck of HMS Victory, and after consultation within the Department, agreement was given to Odyssey Marine Exploration for the limited recovery of two cannons to facilitate the process of identification. No consultation took place with external archaeological and heritage advisors at this stage but as I made clear in my answer on 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1996-97W, we are now consulting with other Government Departments and English Heritage over the claims that have been made by the company.

Met Office

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions Ministers in his Department have had with Treasury Ministers on the future of the Met Office as part of the Government's Trading Fund Review in advance of the 2009 Budget. [263879]

Mr. Kevan Jones: There have been no recent direct discussions between Defence Ministers and HM Treasury on the future of the Meteorological Office.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Surveys

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 6 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1892-3W, on departmental surveys, if he will place in the Library a copy of the results of the most recent staff survey undertaken by his Department. [263646]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The last staff survey for DCMS took place in 2007 and the results published on the DCMS website. I will place a copy in the Library.

Swimming

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what research was undertaken in respect of establishing county swimming co-ordinators as referred to in his Department's publication, Be Active, Be Healthy: a plan for getting the nation moving; [263895]

(2) what mechanisms are in place for county swimming co-ordinators to report their progress in the promotion of swimming in every local area to his Department as set out in his Department's publication, Be Active, Be Healthy: a plan for getting the nation moving; and if he will make a statement; [263896]

(3) what role he envisages for the county swimming co-ordinators referred to in his Department's publication, Be Active, Be Healthy: a plan for getting the nation moving. [263898]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

Learning from the Sport England funded Everyday Swim pilots have informed the development of the county swimming co-ordinator package. The county swimming co-ordinators will work closely with County Sport and Physical Activity Partnerships and will be managed through existing reporting and line management mechanisms within the Amateur Swimming Association and will feed into existing cross-government free swimming governance arrangements.

County swimming co-ordinators will offer expert advice and support to local authorities and pool operators helping them to make the most of the Government investment, including increasing and sustaining participation and helping them to deliver in deprived areas and reaching vulnerable groups.

A robust monitoring and evaluation process will be commissioned to support the implementation of this larger scale national pilot.

Television: Advertising

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will estimate the potential size of the UK product placement market. [264220]

Andy Burnham: In December 2005 Ofcom, the regulator for the broadcasting sector, estimated that the potential revenue from product placement could be worth £25 million to £35 million per annum after five years.

A number of respondents to the consultation on the UK implementation of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive, conducted between July and October 2008, agreed with the Ofcom estimate. Other respondents put forward far higher estimates of the potential value of product placement. One broadcaster thought the potential value was greatly overstated. The variation in the estimates made by respondents to the consultation indicates that there is a lack of clear evidence about the potential value of product placement and that there is no consensus on the potential size of the UK product placement market.

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations he has received as part of the consultation on the implementation in the UK of the EU Audiovisual Media Services Directive. [264221]

Andy Burnham: My Department conducted a three month public consultation on the UK implementation of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive between July and October 2008. 59 responses were received. A list of the responses, together with a summary report of the consultation report, are available on the Department's website at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/5911.aspx

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of *(a)* the EU Audiovisual Media Services Directive and *(b)* the joint industry code in protecting television viewers from product placements; [264222]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the effect of restrictions on product placement on producers and commercial broadcasters. [264223]

Andy Burnham: We set out our initial assessment of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMS) in the preliminary impact assessments published with our consultation issued on 31 July 2008. This is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/consultations/5309.aspx

Updated impact assessments will be published later this year, when the Regulations to implement the AVMS Directive are introduced into Parliament.

The Government appreciate the efforts which ITV, PACT and others have made to devise a code of conduct which would mitigate the adverse effects of product placement in UK TV programming were it to be permitted. We have, nevertheless, concluded that there is no firm evidence that the economic benefit of introducing product placement would outweigh the detrimental impact it would have on the quality and standards of British television and viewers' trust in it.

UK broadcasting regulation has never permitted product placement in television programmes made by and for UK television broadcasters. The Government's recent statement on the implementation of AVMS confirms that this will remain the case.

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the effects of Ofcom's broadcasting code in respect of product placement on television programmes acquired from the US. [264224]

Andy Burnham: Section 10 of the code includes rules governing the inclusion of products and services in television programmes. It prohibits television product placement in general, but excludes from that prohibition the inclusion of products and services in a programme acquired from outside the UK and in films made for cinema provided that no broadcaster regulated by Ofcom and involved in the broadcast of that programme or film directly benefits from the arrangement. It also requires that no undue prominence may be given to a product or service.

UK commercial television broadcasting has always operated under rules of this kind. The rules have ensured that product placement in television programming acquired from the United States is not unduly prominent.

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with Ofcom on the regulation of product placement in respect of television programmes made in the UK. [264225]

Andy Burnham: Discussions on the regulation of product placement in television programmes made in the UK, as part of the current work on the UK implementation of the EU Audiovisual Media Services Directive, are an important part of my Department's work with Ofcom. These discussions will continue.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effect on the independent production sector of the decision to restrict product placement. [264138]

Andy Burnham: We set out our initial assessment of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMS) in the preliminary impact assessments published with our consultation issued on 31 July 2008. This is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/consultations/5309.aspx

The impact assessment included an evaluation of the legislative options for product placement. Updated impact assessments will be published later this year, when the regulations to implement the AVMS Directive are introduced into Parliament.

The Government have decided to maintain the UK's existing approach to product placement in television programmes, in so far as the directive allows. UK producers will be able to continue operating as they currently do.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what measures *(a)* are in place and *(b)* he intends to introduce to reduce product placement in programmes and films shown on television in line with the requirements of the Audiovisual and Media Services Directive. [264139]

Andy Burnham: Section 10 of Ofcom's Broadcasting Code includes rules governing the inclusion of products and services in television programmes. It prohibits television product placement in general, but excludes from that prohibition the inclusion of products and services in a

programmes acquired from outside the UK and in films made for cinema, provided that no broadcaster regulated by Ofcom and involved in the broadcast of that programme or film directly benefits from the arrangement. It also requires that no undue prominence may be given to a product or service.

The Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMS) requires member states to implement a general prohibition on product placement. They may however decide to permit product placement in feature films, TV films and series, sports and light entertainment programmes, but not in programmes made for children.

The Government have decided to maintain the UK's existing approach to product placement in television programmes, in so far as the directive allows. It will be for Ofcom to decide how to amend their code in order to ensure that is in accordance with the directive.

We plan to review the position on television product placement in 2011-12.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what evidence he has evaluated on *(a)* effects on viewer confidence in UK-originated programming and *(b)* effects on viewers of product placement in UK-originated film and television content. [264340]

Andy Burnham: We set out our initial assessment of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMS) in the preliminary impact assessments, published with our three month consultation, issued on 31 July 2008. This is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/consultations/1309.aspx

Updated impact assessments will be published later this year, when the regulations to implement the AVMS Directive are introduced into Parliament.

A list of the responses to the consultation, together with a summary report of the consultation report, are available on the Department's website at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/1911.aspx

(a) Consumer and viewer groups argued that allowing product placement in television programmes would bring about a blurring of the distinction between advertising and editorial content in television programmes and that this would undermine the trust viewers have in the integrity of UK-made programming.

(b) Programme makers, commercial broadcasters and advertisers argued that rules ensuring that products are not unduly prominent in programmes would make sure that product placement did not detract from viewers' enjoyment.

The differing views put forward by respondents to the consultation indicate that there is no consensus on the potential effects of product placement on viewers.

Young People: Antisocial Behaviour

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of *(a)* the effects of community sport and cultural activities funded by his Department on young people at risk of committing antisocial behaviour and *(b)* the effectiveness of such activities in West Lancashire constituency in meeting their objectives. [261973]

Andy Burnham: DCMS supports a wide range of programmes that offer young people most at risk of committing antisocial behaviour the opportunity to participate in sport and culture. These include the Kickz programme, street games, and the Department's Youth Mentoring programme for media, music and sport.

All these schemes are evaluated in accordance with agreed performance indicators designed to capture impact on target groups.

We have not undertaken an assessment of the effect of such programmes specifically in West Lancashire.

TRANSPORT

Airports: Security

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the potential health implications of the use of advanced backscatter x-rays and millimetre wave technology in body scanners at airports. [261870]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport has been engaging with a European Commission Working Group looking at the impact of body scanners in aviation security and addressing a number of issues including human health. Findings are expected in the next few months.

There are currently no operationally deployed body scanners in UK airports.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make it his policy to allow travellers at airports who do not wish to be subject to a body scanner using advanced backscatter x-rays and millimetre wave techology to opt instead for a manual pat-down search. [261871]

Jim Fitzpatrick: No body scanner trials are currently ongoing at UK airports.

Passenger privacy is very important to the Government. If we were to consider any further tests of body scanner technologies, measures would be put into place to ensure protection of passenger privacy.

Bus Services: Concessions

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the estimated deficit in funding of local councils is in respect of the concessionary fare for bus travel scheme in the East Midlands. [263598]

Paul Clark: The East Midlands region spent £45 million on concessionary travel in 2007-08. The region will receive an extra £14 million in special grant in 2008-09 (in addition to formula grant funding) to cover the cost of the new concession—representing an increase in funding of 31 per cent.

The Government are confident that the extra funding is sufficient to meet the total cost to local authorities, as it is based on generous assumptions around fares, pass take-up, extra journeys and additional costs.

The bulk of the funding for concessionary travel remains within the overall local government finance settlement and is not separately identified. It is not therefore possible to identify the totality of funding for the current concession in the East Midlands.

Departmental Civil Service Agencies

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how frequently his Department's executive agencies are required to discuss their accounting procedures with the Department's accounting officer. [264121]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 17 March 2009]:* Each executive agency has its own accounting officer, the agency chief executive, who is appointed by the Department's accounting officer. It is the agency's accounting officer that is required to sign the agency's annual accounts. In signing the annual accounts the agency's accounting officer is confirming that the executive agency's accounts, which include accounting policies, have been produced in accordance with Treasury's Financial Reporting Manual (FReM).

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what arrangements are in place for oversight of the *(a)* accounts and *(b)* expenditure of his Department's executive agencies. [264122]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 17 March 2009]:* The oversight role for an executive agency's annual accounts is embedded in the role of that executive agency's accounting officer who is appointed by the Department's accounting officer.

Executive agencies submit financial information, covering expenditure, on a monthly basis to the Department for Transport.

Departmental Publications

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons publication of the annual report entitled The Allocation of Road Track Costs was discontinued after 1996-97. [261872]

Paul Clark: The Allocation of Road Track Costs report was discontinued because the costs of vehicles using the road extended beyond the costs that were included in the report. For example, the report took account of the cash costs of capital expenditure on construction, and of current expenditure on maintenance, but made no allowance for a return on capital.

Fuels: Storage

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent consideration his Department has given to the safe storage and transportation of fuels around the Scottish Highlands and Islands, under the renewable transport fuel obligation (RTFO); whether his Department has received any representations expressing concerns about the applicability of the RTFO to the Highlands and Islands; and if he will make a statement. [263142]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) requires suppliers of fossil fuel to ensure a proportion of the fuel they supply is renewable. UK suppliers are mostly using biodiesel to meet their obligation and some smaller quantities of bioethanol. There will be distribution difficulties transporting bioethanol from the refinery at Grangemouth to remote areas such as the Highlands and Islands as these areas are currently supplied with fossil petrol by ship. However, shipping is not suitable for transporting petrol blended with bioethanol due to its water attracting properties. This issue has not resulted in an immediate risk of petrol supply but in the future it is possible that bioethanol will need to be transported from Grangemouth to these regions.

In response to last year's consultation about future obligation levels under the RTFO the Department for Transport received a number of representations from: the Highlands and Islands Council; The Highlands and Islands Transport Partnership (HITRANS) and the fuel supplier Ineos. All raised concerns about the practicality and cost implications of distributing and storing bioethanol to these regions. The Department for Transport and the Scottish Executive are considering possible solutions. We shall examine how a future consultation on the implementation of the Renewable Energy Directive and an impact assessment might consider this issue and possible options to overcome these problems. As part of this process we shall continue to engage with those organisations that have raised concerns.

Great Western Railway: Rolling Stock

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Statement of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1531-3W, when he expects the Intercity Express Programme trains he announced to be operating on the Great Western line. [262417]

Paul Clark: Intercity Express Programme trains will begin operation on the Great Western Main Line from 2016 onwards.

Heathrow Airport: Air Pollution

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what datasets on *(a)* noise and *(b)* air pollution his Department has drawn upon to support its work on the Adding Capacity at Heathrow consultation. [262935]

Jim Fitzpatrick: As explained in annex C to the November 2007 consultation document, the Heathrow work was underpinned by forecasts of air passengers up to 2030 by BAA, benchmarked against the Department's own air traffic and fleet forecasts to quality assure them. The supporting technical reports explained how these forecasts translate into noise impacts and emissions. Road traffic modelling drew on a variety of data sources including the Highways Agency and Transport for London, as described in the technical report on surface access. All these reports are still available on the Department's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/archive/2008/heathrowconsultation/technicalreports/

Heathrow Airport: Public Consultation

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department spent *(a)* on external consultants and *(b)* in total on the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport consultation. [262453]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department paid external consultants £1,155,536.43 for their input to the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport consultation and the

related Equalities impact assessment consultation. The overall cost of both consultations (not including staff costs) was £3,119,921.44.

High Speed Two: Finance

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding his Department has allocated to High Speed Two Ltd in each of the next five years. [264250]

Paul Clark: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of Monday 16 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 816W.

Intercity Express Programme

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to his statement on 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1531-33 on new trains (investment), whether his assessment that the successful bid was substantially compliant with specifications included an assessment of compliance with specifications on train weight. [262930]

Paul Clark: The bid by Agility Trains, Preferred Bidder for the Intercity Express Programme, was substantially compliant with the specifications set out in the Train Technical Specification.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria relating to weight specifications were applied in the assessment of bids under the procurement process for the Intercity Express programme from *(a)* Bombardier and *(b)* Agility Trains and Hitachi. [262931]

Paul Clark: This information is contained in the Invitation To Tender document, and is available on the Department for Transport website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/pi/iep/iepinvitationtotender/.

Lorries: Testing

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received requesting annual testing for heavy goods vehicles to be made available outside normal business hours. [264166]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) has received inquiries from representative trade bodies to make testing of HGV's available outside normal working hours. VOSA now routinely conduct testing outside of normal working hours at many locations were there is demand, this demand does vary both from customer to customer and geographically. Recently VOSA has carried out research with its customers to better understand the different requirements customers may have for testing outside of normal working hours.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reasons annual testing for heavy goods vehicles is not available outside normal business hours. [264167]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The testing of heavy goods vehicles (HGV's) outside of normal business hours is and has been routinely available for some years now at a number of stations. As an example, in the period April 2008 to February 2009 the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) conducted 21,837[1] HGV tests out of normal core business hours. This equates to approx. 19,300 hours of testing conducted out of hours. Testing outside of normal business hours is not routinely available at all sites due to a number of reasons including demand, resources and restrictions on opening hours due to the location of some testing stations. The demand for testing out of normal hours is in turn seasonal, geographical and varies by customer.

[1] This figure includes 3,675 re-tests.

Ports: Milford Haven

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what representations he has received on the trust port status of the Port of Milford Haven; [263524]

(2) what assessment he has made of the benefit to the public of the Port of Milford Haven being a Trust Port; [263525]

(3) what his policy is on the status as a Trust Port of the Port of Milford Haven; and if he will make a statement. [263526]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Our policy towards trust ports in England and Wales is set out in the Department's guidance document "Modernising Trust Ports - A Guide to Good Governance". A revised version of this guidance, on which the Department is currently inviting views, is available on our website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open/trust/

The policy recognises the validity of the trust port model, while strongly encouraging trust ports to analyse their corporate structure and keep it under review, with a view to identifying opportunities to enhance their efficiency and get value from their assets.

We expect the major trust ports, including Milford Haven, to have reported to us within the next 12 months on their analysis of structural change and their intended course of action.

We have received no specific representations about the status of Milford Haven as a trust port nor undertaken any analysis of its benefit to the public in the area.

Railways: Consultants

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consultants his Department has engaged to work on the Intercity Express Programme; and how much each has been paid to date. [262448]

Paul Clark: The following consultants, technical, legal and financial Advisers have been engaged to provide expert advice and services to the Intercity Express Programme from 2005 to end January 2009:

	£ million
Mott MacDonald (Programme Management, Technical)	5.307
Steer Davis Gleave (Business Case, Economic Advice)	3.333
The Nichols Group (Procurement)	1.175
Capita (Procurement)	0.240

	£ million
Ernst and Young (Financial Advice)	0.160
PricewaterhouseCoopers (Financial Advice)	1.870
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer (Legal)	2.595
Train Operating Companies	0.265
Total	14.945

These costs should be considered in the context of the total contract value of £7.5 billion.

Railways: Franchises

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what contingency preparations his Department has made in the event of a rail franchisee defaulting on a franchise. [263597]

Paul Clark: Section 30 of the Railways Act 1993 (as amended by the Transport Act 2005) places a duty on the Secretary of State to ensure passenger services are maintained in the event of franchise failure.

To deliver that requirement, the Department for Transport has contingency plans in place in the event of a franchisee defaulting on a franchise. These plans are aimed at ensuring that passenger services are maintained and are regularly reviewed.

Railways: Manpower

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of the jobs he estimates will be safeguarded or created as a result of his announcement on the Intercity Express Programme and Stansted Express on 12 February 2009 will be in Derby. [262450]

Paul Clark: There will be significant investment at a number of UK facilities in relation to the Intercity Express Programme. None of these facilities are currently proposed at Derby itself. However, the East Midlands is being considered for the new assembly plant.

It is not yet possible to confirm figures for the jobs safeguarded or created in relation to the new Stansted Express fleet until the procurement process has been concluded, as commercial negotiations are ongoing at this time.

Road Traffic Offences: Fines

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether revenue generated from *(a)* fines imposed for speeding detected by speed cameras and *(b)* other motoring offences is hypothecated. [264280]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Until 31 March 2007 safety camera partnerships were allowed to hypothecate their costs from fixed penalties arising from offences detected at approved sites within the national safety camera programme. All surplus was passed to the Consolidated Fund. Since 1 April 2007 all fine revenue from speeding offences has gone to the Consolidated Fund, safety camera enforcement costs have been absorbed into wider road safety partnerships, and the Government have provided additional funding of £110 million per year for three years which is available for all road safety purposes. Fines from other motoring offences have always passed to the Consolidated Fund.

Rolling Stock

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1612W, on rolling stock, when the remaining 227 carriages will be ordered; and to which operators they will be allocated. [264203]

Paul Clark: The remaining 227 carriages for High Level Output Specification (HLOS) capacity are made up of the growth element of the Thameslink build which is due to be ordered in 2009-10, and is identified in the *Official Report*, column 1612W.

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1612W, on rolling stock, how many of the 202 GoCo vehicles will be ordered by *(a)* First Great Western, *(b)* Trans Pennine Express and (c) Northern Rail. [264204]

Paul Clark: The intention is that the 202 diesel multiple unit vehicles will be ordered by Diesel Trains Limited. The Department for Transport is currently engaged in a series of commercially confidential negotiations with the relevant train operating companies, on the basis of which a final decision on the exact allocation of the 202 vehicles between train operating companies will be made.

Rolling Stock: Procurement

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department assessed Bombardier's bid under the Intercity Express Programme contract to be substantially compliant with the specifications set by his Department. [262359]

Paul Clark: Both bids, from Agility Trains and from Express Rail Alliance (which includes Bombardier) were of a very high quality and were deemed substantially compliant.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has received representations on reconciling the 362 tonne train weight specification with the other performance requirements specified by his Department for the new Intercity Express Programme trains. [262360]

Paul Clark: Yes. The bid evaluation assesses the optimum whole life best value for money across a number of important parameters. Weight affects both energy efficiency and track wear and these two key parameters were fully assessed.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the Agility Trains/Hitachi bid proposal is for the weight of each train in the Intercity Express Programme. [262361]

Paul Clark: The current IC 225 train (existing intercity train) is 498 tonnes. In comparison, the current proposed weights of the Intercity Express Programme trains are:

	Tonnes	Lighter by: (percentage)
10 car electric train	412	17
10 car self-power train	438	12
10 car bi-mode train	428	14

In terms of weight per seat, the improvement is much greater as the new trains will seat many more people (with the same seat spacing).

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what effect the inclusion of dual function diesel and electric trains has had on the estimated cost of the Intercity Express Programme. [262363]

Paul Clark: The operation of dual function diesel and electric trains is less expensive and more environmentally friendly than operating under diesel traction for the whole of the route, and is more cost effective than further electrification of key, but lightly trafficked lines. The inclusion of the dual function bi-mode train has therefore reduced the costs and, as journey times are faster, improved the benefits of the Intercity Express Programme, relative to the alternatives.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidance issued by his Department to safety camera partnerships on the location and evaluation of effectiveness of speed cameras. [264279]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Chipping Barnet (Mrs. Villiers) on 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 995W.

Speed Limits: Rural Areas

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the effect of lowering the speed limit on rural roads to 50 miles per hour on the number of *(a)* accidents and *(b)* deaths each year. [264334]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We expect to consult shortly on a new road safety strategy. When we publish the consultation document, we will also publish research on the potential impacts of a variety of options for improving road safety, including for rural single carriageways.

XL Leisure Group: Compensation

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* individuals and *(b)* companies have (i) claimed against the Air Travel Organisers' Licensing scheme for their costs and (ii) received compensation following the collapse of XL Airlines. [263596]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Air Travel Organisers Licence (ATOL) Scheme is run by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). The XL Leisure Group collapsed on 12 September 2008. Passengers affected who were on ATOL protected holidays at the time were able to complete their holiday broadly as planned and return to the UK at no additional cost.

As at 6 March 2009, the CAA has received 56,215 claims against the ATOL Scheme from individuals who had advance bookings with XL Leisure Group tour operators at the time of the collapse.

Also as at 6 March 2009, the CAA has processed and settled 15,000 claims with payments totalling over £15 million being made to individual claimants, and 41,000 are under consideration or requiring further information from claimants or travel agents.

The CAA classifies all claims to be from individual consumers and therefore the numbers provided above cover both claims received from individuals directly and those through travel agents in respect of individuals.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Anti-Semitism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department has taken to combat anti-Semitism since January 2009; and if she will make a statement. [263257]

Mr. Alan Campbell: A range of work is ongoing to reduce hate crime including anti-Semitic crimes. In February 2009, a ministerial seminar agreed an action plan on tackling hate crime on the internet. I have become the cross-government champion for this work on reducing incitement on the internet. Moving forward, tackling anti-Semitic attacks forms part of the work in the development of the cross-government Hate Crime Strategy.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy to allow the separate identification of offences committed against the Jewish community under *(a)* the Racial and Religious Hatred Act 2006 and *(b)* section 18 of the Public Order Act 1986; what recent representations she has received supporting separate identification; and if she will make a statement. [263256]

Mr. Alan Campbell: From April 2009, the Annual Police Community Safety figures will add five data requirements on hate crime. These figures will enable us to identify the number of hate crimes reported due to an individual being targeted because of their race or religion. The Home Office is currently considering the potential for further subcategories within these broader categories.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Young People

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many individual support orders were issued in 2007; and what proportion of all anti-social behaviour orders issued to 10 to 17 year olds individual support orders represented in that year; [263186]

(2) how many intervention orders were issued in 2007; and what proportion this represented of all antisocial behaviour orders issued in that year. [263187]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Individual support orders (ISOs) became available from 1 May 2004. Data on the number of ISOs issued to 10-17 year-olds are currently available

up to 31 December 2006 only. 2 per cent. ISOs were attached to antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) in 2004, 7 per cent. in 2005 and 18 per cent. in 2006. Data for 2007 are expected to be available shortly.

Intervention orders became available in October 2006. The Office for Criminal Justice Reform started collecting data on the number of intervention orders from 1 October 2007. Data for 2007 are due to be published shortly.

Appropriate Adults

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) pursuant to the answer of 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2210W, on police custody: young people, what mechanisms her Department has in place for the review of the way in which the use of an appropriate adult to attend police questioning of minors operates; and if she will make a statement; [260759]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 671W, on appropriate adults, when she expects to *(a)* make decisions on and *(b)* implement changes to the role, training and use of appropriate adults following the public consultation launched in August 2008; and if she will make a statement. [261802]

Mr. Coaker: The Review of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 was published in August 2008 as a public consultation document and contained proposals on the role, training and use of appropriate adults. We intend to publish the summary of responses to the consultation paper in April 2009 and to publish final proposals in respect of appropriate adults by summer 2009.

Asylum: Zimbabwe

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will expedite assessment of the asylum claims of all Zimbabwean asylum seekers in the light of the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal's November 2008 country guidance determination on Zimbabwe. [255895]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 12 February 2009]:* In November, the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal refined what they believe are the current risk factors that must be considered for a Zimbabwean asylum claim. We have accepted their findings. We have issued new guidance to our case-owners and also made that guidance publicly available. We will keep the situation under review as the situation in Zimbabwe develops and we will update that guidance when appropriate.

The UK Border Agency will examine all outstanding Zimbabwean asylum claims on their individual merits, as soon as possible, applying the current test as set out in our guidance. This has already begun. We have dedicated significant resources to clearing backlogged cases. We will consider cases in line with published policy on prioritising cases which is on our website at:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/asylum/oldercases/whichcases/

British Crime Survey

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to the answer of 19 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 575W, on the British Crime Survey, when volume 2 of the 2007-08 technical report will be published. [262276]

Jacqui Smith: The 2007-08 British Crime Survey Technical Report Volume 2 is publicly available and can be found on the following webpage of the UK Data Archive website at:

http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/findingData/snDescription.asp?sn=6066

Cannabis: Crime Prevention

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether additional funding has been made available to support the policing of illegal cannabis production and use since the drug was reclassified; and if she will make a statement. [263488]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 13 March 2009]:* The Government announced the decision to reclassify cannabis to a class B drug in May 2008. Following this announcement the Government have provided funding for a series of measures to work with police and enforcement agencies to support the policing of illegal cannabis production and use. These measures include working jointly with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) on a UK Baseline Assessment; a National Problem Profile of commercial cannabis cultivation for the first time; the appointment of a national cannabis co-ordinator and the funding of NPIA practice guidance on tackling commercial cannabis cultivation and head shops.

Community Policing: Young People

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department has taken to promote closer working and engagement between safer neighbourhood and community police teams with young people. [263189]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office has supported the rollout of Neighbourhood Policing teams to every community in England and Wales. For neighbourhood policing teams an essential element of developing partnerships with their local communities is to consider how to engage effectively with young people. For example, each borough in Surrey has a youth intervention team that engages with young people in schools and the wider community, while Essex police make use of the county council's youth buses to engage with hard to reach communities. We also recently published our Youth Crime Action Plan (YCAP) which highlights the need to improve the communication and relationships between young people and the police.

Crime Prevention

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which business improvement districts have crime prevention as part of their funded strategy. [264084]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 16 March 2009]:* Town centre management schemes and business improvement districts are locally funded approaches that primarily aim to improve the trading environment and image of defined areas. Information is not collected centrally on the performance of these schemes.

Crime Prevention: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people from *(a)* Enfield North constituency and *(b)* the London Borough of Enfield have attended the community crime fighters one day training course; and how many she expects to have done so by the end of 2009. [261516]

Mr. Alan Campbell: One-day Community Crime Fighter training events have been held across England and in Wales. Over 1,000 people have so far attended these events. 3,600 people will be trained by the end of 2009.

Analysis of the postcodes of people attending indicates that no one from Enfield North constituency or the London borough of Enfield has yet attended the community crime fighters one day training.

Crime: Statistics

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many offences classified in the Home Office Counting Rules as 8/32 (breach of an anti-social behaviour order) have been recorded by police in each year since 1 April 2005; [262333]

(2) how many offences classified in the Home Office Counting Rules as *(a)* 66/8 (breach of a sexual offences prevention order), *(b)* 66/17 (offences relating to notification), *(c)* 66/19 (breach of risk of a sexual harm order) and *(d)* breach of a foreign travel order have been recorded by police in each year for which figures are available. [262334]

Jacqui Smith: The offences listed within both questions are all recorded under Home Office classification 66 'Other offences against the State and Public Order' as stated within the Home Office Counting Rules for recorded crime.

Figures for these sub-classifications cannot be separately identified from other offences within classification 66.

Crime: Young People

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the proportion of criminal activity attributable to persons under the age of 16 years as *(a)* victim and *(b)* perpetrator. [263188]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government are committed to driving down youth crime and keeping the communities, including young people themselves, safer and reducing youth victimisation.

We do not have a recent estimate of the proportion of criminal activity for which those aged under 16 were perpetrators or victims. The most recent available (2007) figures for proven offending only (offences resulting in a caution or conviction) show that young people (aged 10 to 17) accounted for 24 per cent. of caution and convictions for indictable offences.

Following a recommendation of the independent Smith review of the Home Office crime statistics, the British Crime Survey has been extended to cover under-16s since January 2009. This will assist in providing a clearer understanding of youth victimisation. We know that young people are more likely to be victims of other young people, and we are committed to driving down levels of youth victimisation. Through the implementation of the Youth Crime Action Plan, we will introduce a new national objective to substantially reduce the number of young victims by 2020.

Departmental Research

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many articles in independently peer-reviewed journals have been published by research staff in her Department acting in their official capacity in each of the last five years. [260367]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 3 March 2009]:* Research and Analysis staff in the Department occasionally write articles in peer reviewed journals in an official capacity on a range of scientific research topics or to inform wider public debate on research issues relating to the Department's wider objectives. There is no centrally held information on the number of such articles published although a search of local records has indicated that 40 articles have been published in independently peer reviewed Journals by Research and Analysis staff working in an official capacity since 2004.

Drugs: Crime

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 23 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 150W, on drugs: crime, what categories of incidents would be recorded as those where drugs represented a characteristic or motivating factor. [262277]

Jacqui Smith: Incidents recorded as having a characteristic or motivating factor linked to drugs will be those that have been identified in accordance with the definition for the Drugs incident qualifier, as set out in the National Standard for Incident Recording (NSIR).

Such incidents will be those recorded where, after appropriate investigation and on the balance of probabilities, a notifiable crime has not occurred.

The qualifier definition for such incidents, as set out within NSIR and applicable from April 2009, is as follows:

> Reports where the incident contains any reference to the behaviour or wellbeing of any person being affected by the consumption of drugs, whether legal or illegal;
>
> Reports of the misuse, possession or creation of classified substances and/or paraphernalia reasonably assumed to be associated with such substances.
>
> The qualifier guidance also includes examples as to the circumstances when this qualifier should be applied.

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what recent assessment she has made of the links between dependency on illegal drugs and retail crime; [263491]

(2) what recent estimate she has made of the proportion of retail crime committed to fund illegal drug use; [263492]

(3) what her most recent estimate is of the proportion of *(a)* people arrested for retail crime who are illegal drug users and *(b)* retail crime committed in order to fund illegal drug use. [263493]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 13 March 2009]:* There is evidence which points to a relationship between acquisitive crimes and drug misuse, although that relationship can be complex.

The Department has commissioned a number of studies which provide information on the relationship between theft and other acquisitive crime and drug use. In addition, monitoring data from the Drug Interventions Programme (DIP) are routinely collated.

These data sources provide some information on the links between drug dependency and crime and the proportions of arrestees who use drugs. We have no published estimates of the share of total retail crime committed to fund drug use, although these sources do provide some indication.

The most recent assessment of the link between dependency on drugs and crime is the Arrestee Survey 05/06 which provides information on arrestees' self-reported offending while using drugs, and reported crimes committed in order to buy/get hold of drugs. This survey also provides the best available estimate of the proportion of people arrested for theft in general who are drug users. For example, of arrestees who reported taking heroin and/or crack cocaine (HC) at least once a week, 54 per cent. reported shoplifting in the four weeks prior to arrest compared to 10 per cent. for those arrestees who did not take HC at least once per week.

81 per cent. of arrestees who used heroin and/or crack cocaine (HC) on at least a weekly basis reported committing acquisitive crimes in the 12 months prior to arrest, in comparison to 30 per cent. of those arrestees who did not take HC weekly. (Source: Table 5.4 Home Office Statistical Bulletin 12/07)

http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1207.pdf

Data from the Drug Intervention Programme also provide information on the number of positive drug tests (heroin and crack/cocaine) in 106 basic command units (BCUs) for those arrested and/or charged with a number of trigger offences, including theft.

There are no data on the proportion of retail crime committed to fund drug use, although estimates of the social and economic, CJS and victim costs are provided in Home Office Online report 16/06

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/rdsolr1606.pdf

for shoplifting and robbery (commercial and personal robbery are combined in one category) and other crime categories.

Additional sources of data include:

The Drug Treatment Outcomes Research Study—a representative study of drug treatment-seekers in England and Wales. The findings from this survey provide information on the number of treatment-seekers who had committed offences prior to interview, the number committing offences in order to buy drugs, and the numbers committing offences while under the influence of drugs. Around two-fifths (39 per cent.) of drug treatment seekers reported committing an acquisitive crime in the four weeks prior to interview. This figure rose in the case of heroin and crack cocaine users, with 55 per cent. reporting that they committed an acquisitive crime in the four weeks before interview. (Source: Home Office Research Report 3)

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/horr03c.pdf

The Offending Crime and Justice Survey—a survey of offending among young people in the general population, asks whether offenders who had committed 'other thefts' (including retail but not limited to) had taken alcohol or drugs at the time of the offence

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/hosb1706.pdf

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent estimate she has made of the cost to retailers of drug-related retail crime. [263494]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 13 March 2009]:* The most recent estimates made by the Department of the costs of drug-related retail crime provide figures for the victim costs of shoplifting as well as robbery associated with class A drug use (note that robbery covers both commercial and personal robbery). Estimates are also provided for the total social and economic costs of these crimes associated with class A drug use.

Recent estimates suggest that shoplifting accounts for 12 per cent. of the total social and economic costs of class A drug use. Victim costs for shoplifting are made up of the value of the property stolen and were estimated at £1,533 million in 2003-04.

Robbery is estimated to account for 16 per cent. of total social and economic costs of class A drug use (although note that this does not distinguish between personal and commercial robbery). Victim costs for robbery are made up of the value of property stolen as well as the cost of violence experienced by the victim and were estimated at £1,583 million in 2003-04.

Sources:

Home Office online report 30/05

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/rdsolr3005.pdf

Home Office online report 16/06

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs06/rdsolr1606.pdf

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate has been made of the level of illegal drug dependency in the UK in each year since 1997. [264082]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 16 March 2009]:* The Home Office is not able to provide information on levels of illegal drug dependency in the UK, but the British crime survey (BCS) does routinely provide estimates of illicit drug use among adults living in households in England and Wales.

Table 1 shows trends in the proportion of 16 to 59-year-olds who have said they had used illicit drugs in the last year; latest figures show that the prevalence of any illicit drug use has fallen since the 1998 BCS.

Table 1: Proportion of 16 to 59-year-olds reporting use of drugs in the last year, 1998 to 2007-08, BCS

Percentage

	Ints									*Statistically significant change*	
	1998	*2000*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*1998 to 2007-08*	*2006-07 to 2007-08*
Class A											
Any cocaine	1.3	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.5	2.0	2.4	2.6	2.3	*	*
Cocaine powder	1.2	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.4	2.0	2.4	2.6	2.3	*	*
Crack cocaine	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	—	—
Ecstasy	1.5	1.8	2.2	2.0	2.0	1.8	1.6	1.8	1.5	—	*
Hallucinogens	1.3	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.9	1.1	1.1	0.7	0.6	*	—
LSD	0.8	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3	*	—
Magic mushrooms	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.8	1.1	1.0	0.6	0.5	*	—
Opiates	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	—	—
Heroin	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	—	—
Methadone	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	—	—
Class A/B											
Amphetamines	3.0	2.1	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.0	*	*
Class B/C											
Tranquillisers	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.5	—	—
Class C											
Anabolic steroids	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	*	—
Cannabis	10.3	10.5	10.6	10.9	10.8	9.7	8.7	8.2	7.4	*	*
Ketamine	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.3	0.4	n/a	—
Not classified											
Amyl Nitrite	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.5	—	—
Glues	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	*	*
Any Class A drug	2.7	3.2	3.2	3.3	3.5	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.0	—	*
Any drug	12.1	11.9	11.9	12.2	12.3	11.3	10.5	10.0	9.3	*	*
Unweighted base	9,809	12,771	19,973	23,357	24,197	28,206	29,631	28,819	28,331	—	—

Notes:
1. Any drug use includes ketamine since 2006-07 interviews.
2. Base numbers relate to any drug use. Bases for other drug measures will be similar.

Source:
1998 to 2007-08 BCS (self-completion modules).

Drugs: Crime Prevention

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many closure orders have been made in respect of premises *(a)* where Class A drugs are used unlawfully and *(b)* associated with persistent disorder or nuisance in each police force area in England and Wales in each year since 2003. [263528]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 introduced the power for courts to issue orders for the closure of premises where Class A drugs and serious nuisance and disorder are a problem. The provision commenced on 20 January 2004. Data on the number of closure orders made in respect of premises where Class A drugs are used unlawfully are collected by the Home Office through voluntary Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) survey of antisocial behaviour tools and powers. Information on closure orders where Class A drugs are used unlawfully is not available in the format requested. However, information published in May 2008 and covering the period October 2003 to September 2007 is shown in the following table.

The power for the courts to close, on a temporary basis, premises associated with significant and persistent disorder or persistent serious nuisance was introduced by the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008. This new power commenced on 1 December 2008. Data on closure of premises associated with persistent disorder or nuisance order are not available.

CDRP Survey not including ASBO statistics, from October 2003 up to September 2007

Police force/CJS	*Government office region*	*Crack house made*
Bedfordshire	East	4
Cambridgeshire	East	10
Essex	East	7

CDRP Survey not including ASBO statistics, from October 2003 up to September 2007

Police force/CJS	*Government office region*	*Crack house made*
Hertfordshire	East	14
Norfolk	East	4
Suffolk	East	9
	East total	48
Derbyshire	East Midlands	13
Leicestershire	East Midlands	10
Lincolnshire	East Midlands	3
Northamptonshire	East Midlands	15
Nottinghamshire	East Midlands	33
	East Midlands total	74
Greater London (Met and City of London)	London	400
	London Total	400
Cleveland	North East	46
Durham	North East	6
Northumbria	North East	4
	North East total	56
Cheshire	North West	11
Cumbria	North West	8
Greater Manchester	North West	30
Lancashire	North West	49
Merseyside	North West	22
	North West total	120
Hampshire	South East	79
Kent	South East	16
Surrey	South East	2
Sussex	South East	10
Thames Valley	South East	16
	South East total	123
Avon and Somerset	South West	68
Devon and Cornwall	South West	24
Dorset	South West	23
Gloucestershire	South West	6
Wiltshire	South West	5
	South West total	126
Dyfed-Powys	Wales	0
Gwent	Wales	2
North Wales	Wales	9
South Wales	Wales	3
	Wales total	14
Staffordshire	West Midlands	6
Warwickshire	West Midlands	1
West Mercia	West Midlands	0
West Midlands	West Midlands	55
	West Midlands Total	62
Humberside	Yorkshire and Humberside	20
North Yorkshire	Yorkshire and Humberside	0
South Yorkshire	Yorkshire and Humberside	28
West Yorkshire	Yorkshire and Humberside	80
	Yorkshire and Humberside total	128
	National total	1,151

Forensic Science

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the minimum required level of *(a)* professional and clinical qualification and *(b)* practical training is for (i) nurses, (ii) doctors and (iii) other healthcare professionals employed by police forces to provide forensic medical services; what duties are performed by staff at each level in each professional role; what steps are taken to ensure that staff recruited to provide these services are available to give evidence in court when required; and what powers police forces have to (A) make and (B) vary requirements for forensic medical staff; [262774]

(2) what guidance her Department has issued on required levels of qualifications and training for healthcare staff employed in the delivery of forensic medical services to police forces and HM Courts Service. [262775]

Jacqui Smith: Guidance as to the level of professional and clinical qualification required for doctors or nurses is issued by the Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine (FFLM), which is part of the Royal College of Physicians.

Responsibility for recruitment of healthcare professionals is a matter for individual chief police officers, and it is for each police force to make a decision on an individual basis against this guidance.

The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) recommends that students attending the Introductory Course in Clinical Forensic Medicine have the following experience:

Doctors: Evidence of General Medical Council membership and evidence of insurance to practice as a medical practitioner.

Health care professionals: Three to five years experience in an Accident and Emergency or Prison nursing environment.

The FFLM will have an opinion as to what duties should, or should not, be performed by staff at each level in each professional role. There is no mandatory guidance from the police service.

The availability of health care staff to give evidence in court is a matter for individual police forces.

NPIA Forensic Centre provides an introductory course for forensic physicians and health care professionals. Such training is not mandatory. All police forces in England and Wales and custody health care providers are aware of the training, together with the Association of Chief Police Officers and the forensic regulator.

Former Ministers: Security

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many former Ministers receive police protection. [262768]

Mr. Coaker: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 5 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1779W.

Fraud: Banks

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent steps she has taken to increase levels of detection of fraud in relation to retail banks. [264228]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 17 March 2009]:* Banks may report incidents of fraud to the police who will take a decision about the appropriate response.

In response to the recent cross Whitehall review of fraud, the Government and Corporation of London have allocated additional funding to the City of London police to enable the force to take a national lead in the investigation of serious and organised fraud. The force is also establishing a centre of excellence which will assist other forces in their response to fraud by providing training and best practice. Additional money has also been made available to establish a national fraud reporting centre which will equip law enforcement agencies with a powerful intelligence tool and help form the basis of better prevention advice and alerts to fraud threats for business and the public.

Master Locksmiths' Association

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons she did not invite representatives of the Master Locksmiths' Association to her recent burglary summit. [261907]

Jacqui Smith: Invitees to the burglary summit held on 4 February were intended to provide as wide a representation of stakeholders as possible across the public, private and voluntary sectors, within the constraints of the venue. The security industry was represented in the first instance by the British Security Industry Association, as they have a wide reach through the industry, but the Home Office recognises that Master Locksmiths' Association has a very valuable role to play.

The summit was the first event in an ongoing programme of work, and the Home Office is developing the ideas that emerged from that meeting, involving a wider range of partners. Since the summit, a number of companies and industry bodies have contacted officials expressing a willingness to support the real help for people in hard times work. The support of the Master Locksmith's Association is most welcome; they have been contacted by Home Office officials and will be included in relevant aspects of this work as it progresses.

Offences Against Children

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she has taken to ensure there are sufficient numbers of SCD5 child abuse investigation-trained police officers; and if she will make a statement. [259300]

Mr. Alan Campbell: SCD5 is the Metropolitan Police Child Abuse Investigation Command. It is a matter for the Commissioner of the Metropolis to determine the appropriate number of trained child abuse investigating officers in his police force.

Police: Electronic Equipment

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many hand-held devices have been issued to police officers and community support officers in each police force in England and Wales. [264085]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 16 March 2009]:* As at 12 March 2009, a total of 26,188 hand held devices had been issued. The number of devices issued in each police force in England and Wales is shown in the following table.

	Number
Avon and Somerset constabulary	450
Bedfordshire police	1,453
Cambridgeshire constabulary	1,363
Cheshire constabulary	1,130
City of London police	0
Cleveland police	173
Cumbria constabulary	50
Derbyshire constabulary	80
Devon and Cornwall constabulary	0
Dorset police	140
Durham Constabulary	0
Dyfed-Powys police	0
Essex police	2,192
Gloucestershire constabulary	0
Greater Manchester police	500
Gwent police	200
Hampshire constabulary	0
Hertfordshire constabulary	2,118
Humberside police	40
Kent police	1,842
Lancashire constabulary	2,750
Leicestershire constabulary	750
Lincolnshire Police	0
Merseyside police	103
Metropolitan police	80
Norfolk constabulary	0
North Wales police	1,760
North Yorkshire police	0
Northamptonshire police	845
Northumbria police	0
Nottinghamshire police	1,500
South Wales police	0
South Yorkshire police	354
Staffordshire police	1,200
Suffolk constabulary	0
Surrey police	200
Sussex police	0
Thames Valley police	1,200
Warwickshire police	0
West Mercia constabulary	0
West Midlands police	0
West Yorkshire police	3,570
Wiltshire constabulary	145
Total	26,188

Shoplifting

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimated value of goods was stolen from retail premises in each year from 1997-98 to 2007-08. [264081]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 16 March 2009]:* The information requested is not collected centrally on a year on year basis. The Home Office Commercial Victimisation Survey last carried out in 2002 reported that, on average, a single incident of shop theft cost the retailer £35 in loss and damage. The Home Office is currently scoping a new Commercial Victimisation survey to be carried later this year.

Stop and Search

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* stop and account forms and *(b)* stop and search forms were issued in each police force area in 2007-08. [256687]

Mr. Coaker: Data on stops and account are collected by police force area and are published in the 'Statistics on Race and the Criminal Justice System—2006-07' report for the first time this month

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/raceandcjs.htm

This information is contained in the attached table, but can also be found in Table 4.9 of the report.

Information on the number of stop and searches is contained in the attached table. A record is not held centrally on the number of forms issued. The requirement on providing a record of a stop and account was removed from 1 January 2009. The recording requirements for stop and search are set out in code of practice A issued under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.

Data on stop and searches is published in chapter 4 of the Ministry of Justice publication, 'Statistics on Race and the Criminal Justice System' and tables P1 to P3 and PA to PC of the Ministry of Justice publication 'Arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) and the operation of certain police powers under PACE

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/arrests-recorded-crime-engl-wales-2006-07-b.pdf

Stops and searches under various legislation by police force area, England and Wales 2006-07

	Number of stop and searches		
Police force area	*Section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984*	*Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994*	*Section 44(1) and 44(2) of the Terrorism Act 2000*
Avon and Somerset	14,886	239	3
Bedfordshire	4,464	323	29
Cambridgeshire	8,855	37	—
Cheshire	6,200	267	5
Cleveland	12,166	—	—
Cumbria	8,283	88	—
Derbyshire	8,543	184	—
Devon and Cornwall	26,186	73	1
Dorset	6,637	42	14
Durham	8,362	13	—
Essex	8,786	663	432
Gloucestershire	4,791	95	4
Greater Manchester	43,570	2,793	8
Hampshire	20,840	433	2,565
Hertfordshire	10,572	204	—
Humberside	9,716	327	—
Kent	13,870	287	29
Lancashire	17,819	402	—
Leicestershire	21,849	744	2
Lincolnshire	8,825	17	3
London, City of	5,773	32	2,238
Merseyside	37,689	11,034	1
Metropolitan Police	323,848	16,917	29,525
Norfolk	8,509	33	4
Northamptonshire	12,973	690	2
Northumbria	33,399	865	39
North Yorkshire	10,539	8	208
Nottinghamshire	9,318	704	2
South Yorkshire	20,128	348	—
Staffordshire	19,318	—	—
Suffolk	4,194	8	—
Surrey	13,032	60	2,268
Sussex	15,329	238	—
Thames Valley	28,354	403	118
Warwickshire	5,183	1	3
West Mercia	11,932	191	2
West Midlands	27,125	5,212	—
West Yorkshire	63,580	426	93
Wiltshire	4,593	42	1
Dyfed Powys	8,703	8	—
Gwent	5,794	30	—
North Wales	14,429	162	77
South Wales	14,162	49	4,268
Total	962,897	44,707	41,934

Total stops by police force 2005-06 to 2006-07

Police force area	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*Total*
Avon and Somerset	7,501	8,043	15,544
Bedfordshire	11,114	7,745	18,859
Cambridgeshire	4,506	17,708	22,214
Cheshire	48,113	75,167	123,280
Cleveland	61,618	70,279	131,897
Cumbria	7,091	18,698	25,789
Derbyshire	14,960	20,159	35,119
Devon and Cornwall	2,924	3,266	6,190
Dorset	1,694	2,144	3,838
Durham	7,675	16,017	23,692
Essex	45,251	62,946	108,197
Gloucestershire	5,158	12,789	17,947
Greater Manchester	54,188	77,549	131,737
Hampshire	43,006	59,328	102,334
Hertfordshire	28,984	43,326	72,310
Humberside	11,782	30,575	42,357
Kent	12,865	14,200	27,065
Lancashire	47,673	60,742	108,415
Leicestershire	11,568	17,453	29,021
Lincolnshire	16,525	30,268	46,793
London, City of	61,853	28,583	90,436
Merseyside	96,878	164,713	261,593
Metropolitan Police	176,278	244,571	420,849
Norfolk	5,749	9,504	15,253

Total stops, by police force 2005-06 to 2006-07

Police force area	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*Total*
Northamptonshire	12,651	24,329	36,980
Northumbria	56,446	88,361	144,807
North Yorkshire	10,261	23,688	33,949
Nottinghamshire	25,499	24,413	49,912
South Yorkshire	19,018	36,174	55,192
Staffordshire	15,983	21,156	37,139
Suffolk	5,522	6,647	12,169
Surrey	10,819	19,529	30,348
Sussex	78,103	90,685	168,788
Thames Valley	29,371	56,782	86,153
Warwickshire	6,806	3,857	10,663
West Mercia	17,492	20,514	38,006
West Midlands	147,861	142,998	290,859
West Yorks	88,794	104,167	192,961
Wiltshire	6,410	6,763	13,173
Dyfed Powys	28,955	27,148	56,103
Gwent	8,810	12,434	21,244
North Wales	8,025	14,277	22,302
South Wales	38,963	48,875	87,838
England and Wales	1,400,745	1,868,570	3,269,315

Stop and Search: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals were found to be carrying illegal *(a)* weapons and *(b)* drugs during stop and search procedures by the police in Hemel Hempstead in each of the last 10 years. [263063]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Data on stops and searches under PACE and the number of resultant arrests for weapons and drugs reported to the Home Office are broken down by police force area only, and cannot separately identify searches in individual constituency areas.

Terrorism

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals are believed by the Security Service to pose a direct threat to national security and public safety because of their support for terrorism. [260918]

Mr. Coaker: The Security Service will investigate individuals where there is cause for concern regarding their behaviour or activities. Where it is determined that an individual poses a direct threat to national security and public safety, the Security Service, in co-operation with the police, will take disruptive action. However, the number of individuals under investigation by the Security Service at any one time does not necessarily equate to the number of people who pose a direct threat. This is because the police and security and intelligence agencies will never have comprehensive coverage or surveillance so there could be extremist activities of which we are not aware.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Relations

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 16 December 2008, *Official Report*, column 584W, on community relations, which departments have spent money on Prevent-related projects and activities in each year since 2006; and how much has been spent on Prevent-related projects and activities in each such year. [262008]

Mr. Khan: Figures for funding in each financial year since 2006, where the primary goal is to prevent violent extremism are:

£

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
CLG	1,400,000	8,330,000	[1]20,500,000
DCSF	0	0	1,000,000
DIUS	0	0	[2]660,000
FCO	6,460,000	7,530,000	[1]14,320,000
HO	0	15,000,000	23,000,000

[1] Includes £12,000,000 Area Based Grant to local areas.
[2] To end of February 2009.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many individuals the Channel Project has identified as being vulnerable to becoming involved in violent extremism. [262907]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

Between April 2007 and September 2008 Channel received around 178 referrals.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mechanisms are used by the Channel Project to determine whether an individual is vulnerable to becoming involved in violent extremism. [262908]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

There is no single profile of a violent extremist. There are a range of factors and vulnerabilities that may facilitate the process of radicalisation. The prevent strategy: A guide for local partners includes a widely circulated description of the factors that might leave a person more susceptible to exploitation by violent extremists. Local partners, including the police and statutory and community partners, work together to assess an individual's vulnerability to becoming involved in violent extremism.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government at what point an individual is notified that they are the subject of a risk assessment as part of the Channel Project on determining whether or not they are vulnerable to becoming involved in violent extremism. [262909]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

Local partners determine, on a case by case basis, when and how to discuss with an individual the nature of their vulnerability.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mechanisms are in place for an individual to appeal if he or she is determined as part of the Channel Project as vulnerable to becoming involved in violent extremism. [262910]

Mr. Coaker: I have been asked to reply.

Channel is about providing support to protect and safeguard an individual from being drawn in to violent extremism. Individuals are not compelled to engage with any support provision and therefore there are no appeals procedures within Channel.

Community Relations: Finance

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to Annex E of The Prevent Strategy: A Guide for Local Partners in England, 3 June 2008, whether any local partners have taken action to *(a)* withdraw funding from and *(b)* terminate funding agreements with organisations they have previously given money to under the Prevent strand of Project CONTEST. [263603]

Mr. Khan: We are aware that Tower Hamlets council terminated the funding agreement they had in place with Cordoba Foundation for 2007-08.

We are not aware of any other funding contracts being withdrawn or terminated.

Council Housing: Rents

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to ensure that the funding made available to local authorities to implement guideline rent increase meets the full cost of implementation; and if she will make a statement. [264423]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local authorities are responsible for setting their own rents, having regard to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) subsidy determination, local resources and affordability issues.

We have maintained expenditure allowances in line with the previous inflation forecast of 2.75 per cent. for 2009-10, to help authorities absorb implementation costs.

We will meet the fall in assumed income of those authorities that reduce their actual average increase in rents in 2009-10 in line with the reduction in the national average guideline rent. It is our intention that the funding available should be passed on in full to tenants in the form of reduced rent increases.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the decision was taken to halve the guideline rent increase for local authority tenants; what estimate she has made of the cost to her Department of meeting the costs incurred by local housing authorities in implementing the new guideline rent increase; what timetable she has set for implementation of the new guideline rent increase and funding scheme to assist local authorities; and if she will make a statement. [264424]

Mr. Iain Wright: The decision to halve the national average guideline rent increase was taken shortly before the announcement was made by my right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing and Planning on 6 March.

Local authorities asked us to reconsider the existing average guideline rent increases to help protect their tenants in the current difficult economic conditions particularly the adverse impact on rent increases given the very sharp fall in inflation since September. We have listened and responded promptly to their request. It is our intention that the funding available for the reduction to the national average guideline rent should be passed on in full to tenants in the form of reduced rent increases.

After a short period of consultation on new guideline rents for each authority, we envisage issuing the final 2009-10 amending HRA subsidy determination with reduced rental income for participating authorities in May. It would then be for those authorities to introduce the changes to their own timetables for reducing their tenants' rents. Whether they do so is entirely a matter for local authorities.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the cost to local authorities of halving their proposed rent rise. [264701]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department has made no assessment of the administration costs to local authorities of reducing their proposed rent rises in 2009-10.

Local authorities asked us to reconsider the existing average guideline rent increases to help protect their tenants in the current difficult economic conditions. We have listened and responded quickly to their request. It is our intention that the funding available for the reduction to the national average guideline rent should be passed on in full to tenants in the form of reduced rent increases.

Council Tax: Empty Property

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 10 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1178, on council tax: empty property, what the conclusion of the research commissioned by her Department on the exercise of discretionary council tax power by local authorities in respect of long-term empty homes was; and whether she plans to review Government policy in light of this research. [263822]

John Healey: The report, including its conclusions, by Roger Tym Partnership in association with Three Dragons, "Application of discretionary council tax powers for empty homes", is available on Communities and Local Government's website at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/localgovernment/councilfiscempty homes

The Government have no plans to review their policy on local authorities' discretionary power to reduce the council tax discount on empty properties.

Councillors: Vetting

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department has issued guidance to local authorities on the provision of Criminal Record Bureau checks on councillors. [263824]

John Healey: The Department has issued no such guidance to local authorities about criminal record checks on persons due to their being councillors.

Departmental Catering

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge of 26 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 107W, on departmental catering, what the policy on using genetically modified food in *(a)* the Eland House staff restaurant, *(b)* the Ashdown House snack bar, *(c)* the catering facilities at the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol, *(d)* the catering facilities at the Fire Service College and *(e)* the canteen facility at the QE2 Conference Centre is. [262586]

Mr. Khan: The catering providers at the premises mentioned have confirmed that it is their policy not to use genetically modified food or ingredients.

Domestic Waste: Waste Disposal

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether regional improvement efficiency partnerships have issued guidance to local authorities on *(a)* the frequency of bin collections and *(b)* the size of household bins. [263593]

John Healey: The regional improvement and efficiency partnerships (RIEPs) are devolved partnerships of councils and other local services. Information on whether RIEPs have issued guidance to local authorities on frequency of bin collections and size of household bins is not held centrally. The national improvement and efficiency strategy devolves responsibility to RIEPs for identifying where resources should be spend and using their resources in the best way to obtain the help they may need to assist councils and support to drive LAA outcomes.

Economic Situation

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* summits, *(b)* conferences and *(c)* seminars her Department has hosted since January 2008 at which a primary subject of discussion was the effect of the economic situation on matters within her Department's responsibility. [258863]

Mr. Khan: Responding to the economic situation is a priority for the Government. Summits, conferences and seminars are some of the methods used to engage stakeholders in this work and ensure action is coordinated and effective. A list of events hosted by Communities and Local Government since January 2008 is shown in the table.

Summits, conferences and seminars on the economic situation hosted by Communities and Local Government since January 2008

Date held	*Title*	*Description*
26 September 2008	Analysis Week—Housing and Planning Expert Panels Seminar	Series of short presentations on how housing and planning mitigates against economic downturns—past successes and failures, international comparisons, short and long term options.
17 November 2008	Regional Ministers Economic Delivery Group	Membership and TOR; Current Economic Climate and Impact on Region; Regional Update by EDG Group Members; Infrastructure/ Capital projects—setting out criteria for regional priorities.
24 November 2008	RIEP—Worklessness event	Joint workshop between GOYH and Local Government Yorkshire and the Humber (RIEP funding), to share good practice and for local partners to network. A presentation on the current economic climate and update on the Houghton Review was followed by workshops on what was happening in local economies and what needed to be done.
4 December 2008	Arms-Length bodies in Finance Networking Event	Networking event for senior finance managers in Communities and Local Government and it's arms-length bodies looking at the impact of the current economic climate on business areas.
8 December 2008	Regional Ministers Economic Delivery Group	Regional Intelligence Report; Pre Budget Report; Housing in Yorkshire and the Humber; Tackling Rising Unemployment; Communications Plan.
7 January 2009	Home Builders Federation Seminar	Purpose of the seminar was to facilitate a wider stakeholder discussion about the house-building sector with a particular focus on the impact of new regulations on the sector.
12 January 2009	Regional Ministers Economic Delivery Group	Regional Intelligence Report; Update from Regional Economic Council on 5 January 2009; Yorkshire and Humber Report on Redundancies for HMT; Key Business Support Measures; Investments and Initiatives.
21 January 2009	Migration and the Economic Downturn Seminar	Seminar focusing on: (i) the impacts of the economic downturn on international migration into the UK and (ii) The potential impacts on regional economic performance of a fall in net migration.
28 January 2009	Planning and the Economy Workshop	Joint CLG/Whitehall ie Industry Group (WIG) workshop focussing on what the land use planning system can do to aid economic recovery; on mitigating the effects of climate change; and on delivering truly sustainable development.
9 February 2009	Homeowners Mortgage Support scheme—development workshop	One day workshop with lenders and money advice agencies to agree the implementation plans for the Homeowners Mortgage Support Scheme.
9 February 2009	Regional Ministers Economic Delivery Group	Regional intelligence Report; Regional response to redundancies; Business Support Measures; Public Sector Capital Investment.

Summits, conferences and seminars on the economic situation hosted by Communities and Local Government since January 2008

Date held	*Title*	*Description*
18 February 2009	Regeneration in Recession	Internal seminar with Professor Ian Gordon and Professor Henry Overman from the Spatial Economic Research Centre, to discuss the spatial implications of the recession and whether the core principles underpinning the government's approach to regeneration were still fit for purpose.
26 February 2009	Housing Roundtable	Seminar examining housing markets and the downturn.
27 February 2009	Housing Roundtable	Seminar examining housing markets and the downturn.

Eland House

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date Eland House first became an operational building for her Department's predecessor. [262376]

Mr. Khan: Staff of the then Department of the Environment moved into Eland House on a phased relocation basis starting in December 1996, with final moves completed in March 1997.

Energy Performance Certificates

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to *(a)* measure and *(b)* maintain the quality of energy performance certificates for (i) domestic and (ii) non-domestic properties; and if she will make a statement. [263237]

Margaret Beckett: The Department maintains technical and business operating standards that energy assessors are expected to adhere to in creating energy performance certificate (EPCs). We also approve accreditation schemes who are responsible for accrediting energy assessors and ensuring that they comply with our standards in creating the EPCs. Accreditation schemes are required to check a sample of EPCs for both domestic and non-domestic properties to ensure that they are within specific quality limits.

CLG has also commissioned an independent audit of the performance of the accreditation schemes in ensuring that the quality standards are attained and maintained.

Technical and business standards are available on the CLG website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/epbd

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the role of data collectors is in the production of energy performance certificates for *(a)* domestic and *(b)* non-domestic properties. [263238]

Margaret Beckett: The Department accepts that an accredited energy assessor may require professional assistance in carrying out assessments of portfolios of large numbers of similar types of properties (such as local authority housing stock) and of large non-domestic properties. We have accordingly issued guidance on the use of such assistants in the undertaking of assessments of non-domestic and rental properties, and in advice notes to accreditation schemes. This guidance makes clear that where assistants are used that they should be closely supervised by an accredited energy assessor, who is always responsible for the quality of the underlying data and the certificate.

Details of guidance are available on the CLG website:

www.communities.gov.uk/epbd

Homebuy Scheme

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many developers were invited to participate in the Homebuy Direct scheme; [264069]

(2) how many developers have agreed to participate in the Homebuy Direct scheme; and how many properties are on offer for sale through the scheme. [264068]

Margaret Beckett: Following a competitive bidding process, 130 developers were approved by the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) to offer the HomeBuy Direct scheme, which is designed to help up to 18,000 first time buyers into home ownership. Nearly 7,000 HomeBuy Direct properties are currently available to purchasers, and a further 11,000 properties will become available very soon.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes have been sold under each type of Homebuy scheme in each region of England in each year. [264071]

Margaret Beckett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1540W.

In addition, the table shows Social HomeBuy sales by region for 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09 to end January 2009.

Region name (by location)	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09[1]*
North East	2	7	7
North West	4	34	22
Yorks and Humber	12	6	1
East Midlands	3	2	—
West Midlands	—	6	11
Eastern	1	5	2
London	23	79	39
South East	2	20	10
South West	—	1	—

[1] *To 31 January 2009*

Source:

Homes and Communities Agency Investment Management System and local authority returns

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent steps she has taken to increase the supply of affordable accommodation. [261043]

Mr. Iain Wright: We are committed to the delivery of affordable housing, and are investing over £8 billion in affordable housing over the three years, 2008-11—a 50 per cent. increase on the previous three years. This investment is being made through the Homes and Communities Agency. Our aspiration is to reach 70,000 new affordable homes a year by 2010-11.

The September housing market package of measures was aimed at increasing confidence, stability and fairness in the housing market. This offered up to 10,000 first-time buyers currently frozen out of the mortgage market the chance to get onto the property ladder through a new shared equity scheme, Homebuy Direct; Support for up to 6,000 of the most vulnerable homeowners facing repossession to remain in their home through a mortgage rescue scheme; Improving the support offered through the benefit system to homeowners with mortgages who lose their jobs, at a cost of £100 million over the next two years; working with regional development agencies to support the most critical regeneration schemes with the greatest potential to transform their communities and specifically on social rent, bringing forward £400 million in order to deliver up to 5,500 new social homes over the next 18 months on top of current assumptions.

The pre-Budget announced £775 million of housing and regeneration investment brought forward to help offset the impact of economic shocks on priority programmes and provide additional fiscal stimulus. This included £250 million on Decent Homes programmes to fund improvements and improve energy efficiency in 25,000 council homes; a further £150 million on social rented housing to bring forward delivery of up to 2,000 more social rented homes; £175 million for major repairs to council housing stock, and £100 million to support key regeneration and housing infrastructure projects.

Additionally, the RDAs will consider the scope for bringing forward up to £100 million nationally to provide a stimulus to regional and national economic development. The Government also extended the Mortgage Rescue scheme to include cover for second charge lending and the Support for Mortgage Interest scheme for homeowners who lose their jobs.

These announcements build on those previously made in May and July 2008. We are continuing to work closely with the Homes and Communities Agency in order to secure continued delivery of affordable housing.

Housing: Valuation

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what authorisation Valuation Office Agency staff require to enter a domestic property for the purposes of revaluation. [264359]

John Healey: There is statutory authority in section 26(1) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for Listing Officers of the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) to enter on, survey and value domestic property for council tax purposes. All VOA staff undertaking council tax work carry authorisation to act on the Listing Officer's behalf and must, under section 26(3), produce this when visiting a property. I also refer the hon. Member to the information provided on the Valuation Office Agency website at the following link

http://www.voa.gov.uk/TheFacts/council-tax-facts.htm - q14

Land: Public Sector

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects the review by Partnerships UK and Baroness Margaret Ford into identifying and releasing surplus public sector land to be published. [263921]

Mr. Iain Wright: The review by Partnerships UK, with Baroness Ford as specialist adviser, was carried out between October 2008 and January 2009. Rather than being a desk-based research exercise, the purpose of this commission was to explore options for driving forward the surplus public sector land programme through face-to-face discussion with a number of public sector bodies. The final report from this commission summarised the activities carried out during this period.

Local Government

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what investigatory powers local authorities have to intercept and retain post. [263785]

John Healey: Interception is regulated in part I chapter I of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000. Local authorities are not able to carry out warranted interception under this part.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment her Department has made of the likely effect of the recession on the finances of local authorities in the next three years. [263787]

John Healey: The Audit Commission report, "Crunch Time?" found that councils are generally prepared for the impact of the economic downturn and the consequent loss of fees and interest, and increased demand for services. The Government have continued to invest in local services with an extra £8.9 billion as part of the first-ever three-year settlement giving councils the stability and flexibility they need to manage their budgets effectively. Delivering continued efficiency gains is key to enabling authorities to manage the pressures they face which will generate a further £4.9 billion over the CSR07 period. We know that some councils are coming up with innovative ways to save money. We believe that councils are therefore well placed to manage their way through this economic climate.

Local Government Finance: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how payments to be made under the *(a)* Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Grant and *(b)* Area-Based Grant to Chorley Borough Council for the years 2009-10 to 2011-12 were calculated. [264114]

John Healey: No Local Authority Business Growth Incentives grants have yet been calculated for the years 2009-10 to 2011-12.

Area Based Grant comprises the 'pooling' of grants previously paid to local authorities by individual Government Departments as specific grants into a single unringfenced general grant. Each contributing Department is responsible for defining the allocation criteria or formulae for the funding streams they wish to be paid via Area Based Grant.

Local Government Services: Weather

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will commission an independent review of the emergency planning and contingency arrangements used by local authorities for the purpose of increasing the effectiveness of such arrangements during extended periods of severe weather. [262373]

Paul Clark: I have been asked to reply.

My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Transport made a written ministerial statement to the House of Commons on 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 29-32WS. In it, he announced that he would be asking the UK Roads Liaison Group to review the salt stocks issues raised by the severe weather in February 2009.

Other issues that arose were localised and short term, and are being addressed by other means, including by debriefs or reviews in the relevant geographic areas.

Local Government: Meetings

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department issues to *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* local strategic partnerships on the publication of (i) agendas and (ii) minutes of meetings. [264454]

John Healey: Requirements as to the conduct of local authority meetings and access to meeting documents are set out in the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000 (No. 3272). In addition, following the Local Government Act 2000, we issued general guidance—the 'New Councils Constitution: guidance to English Local Authorities'—on the conduct of council business.

While the Department has issued statutory guidance on local strategic partnerships—'Creating Strong, Safe and Prosperous Communities: Statutory Guidance'—this does not include guidance as to the conduct of local strategic partnership meetings, as in the case of these voluntary partnerships this matter is one for local determination.

Local Government: Pensions

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether there are plans to use funds in the Local Government Pension Scheme to support Partnership for Schools; and if she will make a statement. [263784]

John Healey: Local Government Pension Fund administering authorities are responsible for decisions about the use of pension funds' monies within the prudent regulatory framework provided by the Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 1998 as amended.

Local Government: Standards

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons it was decided to replace comprehensive performance assessment with comprehensive area assessment in respect of local government with effect from 2009. [263821]

John Healey: The 2006 Local Government White Paper set out the Government's reasons for introducing the new local performance framework, one element of which was the introduction of a new comprehensive area assessment in 2009.

CPA reported on the performance of councils, but many priority outcomes important to local people are delivered in partnership with other service providers and not just by councils. Like other parts of the new framework, the approach to assessment and inspection was changed to focus more on outcomes, taking into account citizens' experiences and perspectives, and on areas rather than just individual institutions.

Local Government: Training

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make an estimate of local authority expenditure on training courses run by Common Purpose in each of the last five years. [263673]

John Healey: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Non-Domestic Rates: Business

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will estimate the net revenue likely to be raised from business rates in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales in 2009-10. [263923]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 11 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 494W.

Business rates in Wales are the responsibility of the Welsh Assembly Government.

Non-Domestic Rates: Greater London

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 14 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1278W, on non-domestic rates: Greater London, whether a guidance manual or handbook has been issued to assist with the sub-location coding exercise of non-domestic rates in each billing authority in Greater London. [263786]

John Healey: The agency has in place a guidance note, for use by its valuation staff, which explains the "sub-location" concept. The guidance is generic and applies to all billing authorities in England and Wales.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the oral answer of 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 600, on the port of Liverpool (business rates), what the estimated change to net aggregate revenue is between 2005 and 2010. [263918]

John Healey: The Department does not hold information on revenues as it is the local authorities who are responsible for billing and collection of rates from individual businesses. However, the latest figures from the Valuation Office Agency indicate that the change to net aggregate rateable value of ports in England from the review of ports is to increase the overall rateable value of ports from £201 million to £211, and in Liverpool from £20.2 million to £20.4million.

The total Port operator's rateable value has decreased by £44 million whereas the rateable value of the port occupiers has increased by £55 million; in Liverpool the port operator's rateable value has decreased by £9.7 million, while the port occupiers has increased by £9.9 million.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 19 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1082-3W, on non-domestic rates: ports, if she will place in the Library a copy of the revised table of aggregate changes in rateable values in ports. [263924]

John Healey: I have placed a revised table in the Library of the House. This represents the most up to date complete table currently available.

Non-Domestic Rates: Valuation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what methodology the Valuation Office Agency uses to value a parking space. [263421]

John Healey: Valuation officers normally use the established rental comparative method to value a parking space.

Partnerships UK

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 5 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1436-7W, on Partnerships UK, and with reference to the written ministerial statement of 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 17WS, on Housing Challenge document, if she will place in the Library a copy of the contract between her Department and Partnerships UK. [259607]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have placed copies of the original framework agreement with Partnerships UK together with the specification and award letter for this particular call off contract in the Library of the House.

Property Development

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons Helen Zammett has not received a response to her request for information regarding the reasons for the decision in 2008 to lift the Article 4 direction in relation to Chepstow, 49 Leicester Road, Wanstead. [261213]

Mr. Iain Wright: A response was sent to my hon. Friend's letter of 6 May 2008, which forwarded Helen Zammett's letter of 18 April requesting information on the reasons for not confirming this Article 4 Direction. The response enclosed a copy of the Government Office for London's decision letter of 8 April 2008, which contained the reasons for the decision. Her letter, although addressed to the Secretary of State, was only received via my hon. Friend. Had it been sent directly to the Secretary of State the normal procedure would have been to send her a response. However, in this case that would not have been possible as her letter did not include a return address.

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration she has given to the merits of a moratorium on the construction of *(a)* new housing and schools close to existing high voltage power lines and *(b)* high voltage power lines close to existing housing and schools; and if she will make a statement. [264453]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government are considering the need for any practical precautionary measures in light of the "First Interim Assessment: Power Lines and Property, Wiring in Homes and Electrical Equipment in Homes", delivered to the Public Health Minister by the Stakeholder Advisory Group on Extremely Low Frequency Electromagnetic Fields (SAGE).

We expect to publish a response to the SAGE report shortly.

Repossession Orders

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Jarrow of 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 710W, on repossession orders, if she will make it her policy to collect information on the number of home repossessions. [263926]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department does not collect data on repossessions. Repossessions data at the national level are available from the Council of Mortgage Lenders and Financial Services Authority.

The only sub-national figures relating to repossessions are for possession orders. Statistics on mortgage and landlord possession orders for the county courts are available via the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/docs/stats-landlord-mortgage-historic-20-02-09.xls

Right to Buy Scheme

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will bring forward proposals to allow individual councils to retain the capital receipts from right-to-buy sales. [263826]

Mr. Iain Wright: The current position is that housing capital receipts are recycled to central Government for investment, since the level of receipts received in a local authority area does not always match the authority's need to spend. For receipts arising from right to buy (RTB) sales and other sales of dwellings, the proportion that is recycled is 75 per cent.; Local authorities are free to use the remaining 25 per cent. for any capital purpose they choose.

The Review of Council Housing Finance is examining the issue of capital receipts and its interaction with the overall system. The aim of the review is to find a fair, affordable, long-term solution which enables councils to exercise greater freedom and local control but which also supports wider housing policy such as increasing supply.

We are consulting now on the implementation of changes to the revenue and capital rules which currently redistribute rent and capital receipts from new council housing. We are proposing that councils keep the full revenue from new homes they build and the full capital receipts if those homes are sold.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Great Grimsby of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1257W, on council housing, if she will estimate how much has been raised in capital receipts from right to buy sales in each year since the scheme's inception. [263929]

Mr. Iain Wright: As I said in my answer to which the hon. Gentleman refers, the Department does not hold information on capital receipts from right to buy (RTB) and preserved right to buy sales before 1998, nor is it possible to estimate their level. Information on total receipts arising from local authority RTB sales since 1998-99 are available from the following webpage:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table-648.xls

Information on total receipts arising from preserved RTB sales from registered social landlords (RSLs) is shown in the following table:

Total receipts arising from preserved RTB sales from registered social landlords (RSLs)

Financial year	*£ million*
1998-99	116
1999-2000	199
2000-01	198
2001-02	226
2002-03	350
2003-04	483
2004-05	326
2005-06	286
2006-07	260
2007-08	197

Sustainable Development

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representation her Department had at the Ecobuild Conference at Earl's Court between 3 and 5 March 2009; and if she will place in the Library copies of material distributed and speeches made by representatives of her Department at the Conference. [263397]

Margaret Beckett: The Department had a corporate stand at the EcoBuild conference, which was manned by officials from a number of relevant policy areas to ensure the provision of expert advice to delegates to the conference.

The speech that I made at the conference can be downloaded from the Communities website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/speeches/corporate/futuregreenbuilding

The publications that were distributed at the conference can be downloaded from the Communities website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/publications/all/

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Overseas Territories: Investment

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information his Department holds on the monetary value of financial deposits in each UK overseas territory. [264012]

Gillian Merron: The information requested by my hon. Friend is not held by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), but by the regulatory authorities in each Overseas Territory.

FCO officials are in contact with these authorities and I will write to my hon. Friend with the information, when it has been received.

Colombia: Armed Conflict

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the accuracy of the comments of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights that the Colombian security forces are engaged in widespread and systematic killings of civilians. [264044]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 16 March 2009]:* We share the concerns of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on the ongoing problem of abuses committed by members of the Colombian armed forces. I stressed this in a statement on 30 October 2008, in which I said that

"It is vital, not least for Colombia's international reputation, that the government and courts continue to show a determination to deal with human rights abuses committed by members of the armed forces, and that those convicted by the civilian justice system are punished appropriately."

I have discussed our concerns with the Colombian vice-president, foreign minister and ambassador to the UK, and officials in our embassy in Bogota have taken a number of opportunities to remind representatives of the Colombian government and armed forces of these concerns.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Armed Conflict

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of allegations of the activities of Democratic Liberation Forces of Rwanda rebels in villages in the Democratic Republic of Congo. [262743]

Gillian Merron: We are encouraged by the success of the recent joint military operations conducted by the armed forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Rwanda against the Democratic Liberation Forces of Rwanda (FDLR) militia. The numbers of rebel fighters leaving the FDLR have increased in recent weeks.

Nonetheless, the group remains a serious threat to stability in eastern DRC. We understand that during the operations, members of the militia carried out reprisal attacks against members of the civilian population.

Since the end of the joint operations, the FDLR have regrouped in some locations. The DRC army is continuing its efforts to apply pressure to the FDLR, with support from UN peacekeepers. This includes the process of persuading FDLR members to give up their struggle, disarm and integrate into civilian life.

Departmental Audit

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department has had with the National Audit Office on the date of publication of its report on the financial management of his Department; and if he will make a statement. [262894]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has worked closely with the National Audit Office (NAO) throughout the Financial Management Review in agreeing milestones and delivery dates.

The first draft of the review was issued by the NAO on 18 February 2009. On 9 March 2009, the FCO finance department provided comments and an action plan, and the Audit and Risk Committee discussed the initial draft. The NAO are responsible for producing the final version which will be agreed by both Departments.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost to his Department was of entertaining at each residence used by Ministers in his Department in each year since 1997. [262898]

Gillian Merron: The information requested is not held centrally in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and to obtain this would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Appointments

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information his Department holds on the number of persons appointed to executive positions in bodies for which his Department has responsibility in the last five years who previously had careers in the banking industry. [261228]

Gillian Merron: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Wines

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what guidance he has received from the Government Hospitality Advisory Committee for the Purchase of Wine on the wines to be served in *(a)* overseas embassies and high commissions and *(b)* in his Department's premises in London; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidance. [262896]

Gillian Merron: The Government Hospitality Advisory Committee for the Purchase of Wine (GHACPW) offers advice to Government Hospitality, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the department with responsibility for the management of the government cellar stock. The GHACPW's annual report is placed in the Library of the House, but its advice is not published. Although it is not the role of the GHACPW to offer advice to UK missions overseas, the head of Government Hospitality does offer guidance to our embassies and high commissions as required.

Foreign Policy

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in which areas of the world the UK is making territorial claims. [263408]

Gillian Merron: The UK is not making any territorial claims as such. In relation to the continental shelf, where as a coastal state the UK would have limited rights to explore and exploit the natural resources of the seabed and subsoil, the UK has, to date, made two submissions to the UN Commission on the limits of the continental shelf. These relate to the continental shelf beyond 200nm in the Bay of Biscay (jointly with France, Ireland and Spain), and around Ascension Island. This has been done in accordance with Article 76 of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Group of Twenty: London Summit

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of hosting the G20 Summit in London in April 2009. [258887]

Gillian Merron: The financial crisis of autumn 2008, affecting banking systems, is now a global economic crisis, impacting upon jobs and livelihoods. No one, country can resolve this crisis alone.

International co-operation and the London G20 summit is essential as it will bring together leaders of the world's major economies and key international institutions.

With the global economic situation continuing to deteriorate our goal for the London G20 summit is for Leaders to take whatever action is necessary to stabilise financial markets and enable families and business to get through the recession; reform and strengthen the global financial and economic system to restore confidence and trust; and put the global economy on track for sustainable growth.

The London G20 summit is therefore vitally important on the global stage. The current estimate of the cost to the public purse of just below £19 million, which includes policing and contingency costs, should be considered in this context.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of foreign officials likely to attend the G20 summit in London in April 2009. [258928]

Gillian Merron: The financial crisis of autumn 2008, affecting banking systems, is now a global economic crisis, impacting upon jobs and livelihoods. No one country can resolve this crisis alone. International co-operation and the London G20 summit is essential as it will bring together leaders of the world's major economies and key international institutions.

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The current estimate of foreign officials attending the London G20 summit within the Excel Centre is under 1,000. However, delegations will be supported by accompanying officials and we are currently seeking these numbers from the participating countries.

Guinea-Bissau: Assassination

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the alleged assassination of the President of Guinea-Bissau; and if he will make a statement. [261896]

Gillian Merron: A spokesman for the interim government of Guinea-Bissau has confirmed that President Viera was assassinated on 2 March 2009.

The Government have expressed their condolences to the people of Guinea-Bissau and have urged that those responsible be brought to justice. The UN Security Council has issued a statement which condemned the assassinations in the strongest terms. The Government support the Guinea-Bissau interim government's call for elections to take place within 60 days as specified in the constitution.

We will continue to monitor the situation.

Piracy

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to seek international agreement on mechanisms for *(a)* international co-operation to reduce levels of piracy on the high seas and *(b)* the prosecution of piracy cases in adjacent states. [260402]

Gillian Merron: On 24-25 February 2009, in accordance with the outcomes of the International Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia, the UK hosted a working group looking to enhance operational co-operation and co-ordination of the international response to piracy off the Somali coast, including civil/shipping industry, military and regional capability development issues. Delegates from around 30 states/organisations were represented and the outcome of this meeting will be discussed by the Contact Group in Egypt in mid-March 2009.

In December 2008 the UK signed a memorandum of understanding with Kenya under which the Kenyans have agreed to accept the transfer of captured pirates to conduct their subsequent prosecution. The EU is in the process of confirming a similar

agreement with Kenya.

We and the EU are continuing to investigate other potential agreements in the region to secure the effective prosecution of pirates. The wider legal issues relating to piracy are being addressed by the International Contact Group, including through an expert meeting taking place in Vienna on 5 March 2009.

Sudan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will assess the effect on those in receipt of aid or assistance from non-governmental organisations of the withdrawal or expulsion of such organisations from *(a)* Darfur and *(b)* elsewhere in Sudan as a result of the International Criminal Court action against President al-Bashir. [263521]

Gillian Merron: The expulsion of 13 major international (and three national) non-governmental organisations will have a devastating impact on levels of humanitarian assistance in Sudan. UN officials have told the UN Security Council this would disrupt up to 50 per cent. of the current humanitarian effort in Darfur.

Consequences will be most severe in Darfur, but will also affect humanitarian, recovery and development assistance throughout north Sudan, particularly in conflict-affected regions of the Transitional Areas and the East.

As well as increased risk of disease, malnutrition and deaths, lack of water, food and shelter could increase insecurity, particularly in large, volatile camps like Kalma (90,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs)) and Gereida (130,000 IDPs) in south Darfur. Civil disturbances and mass movement of IDPs seeking help could quickly take the situation out of control.

Sudan: War Crimes

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications for the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan of the recent indictment of President Omar al-Bashir; and if he will make a statement. [262840]

Gillian Merron: It is too early to tell if implementation of the comprehensive peace agreement (CPA) will be adversely affected by the recent indictment of President Bashir.

Escalatory reactions in Sudan could present risks to the CPA and we are watching events closely. Both parties to the agreement, the National Congress Party and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement, are aware of the risks posed by a breakdown of the CPA.

We continue to pursue progress on the political process for Darfur, full deployment of the African Union—United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), provision of humanitarian assistance and the CPA.

We call on all parties to avoid any escalation that could jeopardise progress on the CPA: it is vital for the people of Sudan that the gains of the last four years of the CPA are not lost.

UN World Conference against Racism

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what matters he plans to propose for inclusion on the agenda for the Durban II conference in Geneva in April 2009. [263625]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 13 March 2009]:* The United Kingdom has been active in negotiations for the Durban Review Conference. We have, on several occasions, expressed our view on the Durban Review Conference: we want the conference to forge a collective will to fight against racism in all its forms, in all countries in the world. The Government remain deeply concerned about the draft outcome document.

We have made numerous drafting proposals for the concluding document, including on the following issues:

- contemporary forms of slavery;
- multiple and aggravated forms of discrimination, including on the grounds of sex, religion or belief, disability, age, sexual orientation and gender reassignment;
- combating anti-Semitism (including through the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the media, the role of law enforcement, statements by national leaders, education);
- Holocaust remembrance and condemning Holocaust denial, including the role of the International Task Force for Holocaust Education Remembrance and Research, the UN and Council of Europe;
- national strategies to promote cohesion and tackle community tension;
- conflict, including inter-ethnic and intra religious or communal violence;
- crimes against humanity, war crimes, ethnic and genocide prevention;
- the use of irregular militia;
- international justice;
- discrimination and victimisation in employment and training, the provision of goods, facilities and services, education, housing and public functions;
- cultural diversity;
- UN institutional issues,
- civil society;
- general duties on public authorities to promote race equality.

We have also opposed many amendments that we judge would reduce the prospect of consensus, for example on defamation of religions, singling out one particular country for criticism, and language suggesting a hierarchy of victims.

Western Sahara: Politics and Government

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what requests the United Nations has made to the power which has responsibility for the administration of the Western Sahara under Article 73 of the UN Charter for the transmission of information under the provisions of that article. [262829]

Bill Rammell: On 26 February 1976, Spain informed the UN Secretary-General that as of that date it had terminated its presence in Western Sahara and relinquished its responsibilities over the territory, thus leaving it under the administration of both Morocco and Mauritania in their respective controlled areas. Mauritania withdrew from the Territory in 1979 and since then Morocco has administered a substantial part of the territory of Western Sahara alone.

Morocco however, is not listed as the administering power of the territory in the UN list of non-self-governing territories, and has therefore not transmitted, or been asked to transmit, information on the territory in accordance with Article 73E of the Charter of the UN.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he plans to answer question 251285, tabled on 22 January 2009, on departmental ICT; and if he will make a statement. [264174]

Gillian Merron: The question was answered on 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 623W. The delay in replying was due to administrative error.

Zimbabwe: Asylum

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 3 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1417W, on Zimbabwe: asylum, what the three most recent occasions were on which he reminded the Zimbabwean authorities of their legal commitment to pay the pensions of former employees of the Southern Rhodesian Government and other Zimbabwean pensioners; and with whom the matter was discussed on each occasion. [263988]

Gillian Merron: We continue to remind the Zimbabwean authorities of their legal commitment to pay the pensions of former employees of the Southern Rhodesian Government and other Zimbabwean pensioners. We raised this issue twice in October 2008: on 17 October 2008 at a meeting with Mr. S. J. Mnkandla of the Pensions Department, Zimbabwean Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare and on 29 October 2008 in a follow-up letter to the same. A prior meeting was held with Mr. Mnkandla in September 2006 at which the issue was also raised.

TREASURY

Bradford and Bingley

Mr. Weir: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Government is placed above Bradford and Bingley subordinated bondholders in the rankings for settlement. [264074]

Ian Pearson: The position of the Treasury, and the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) reflects the normal creditor hierarchy.

The Treasury and the FSCS provided approximately £18 billion of funding to enable all retail deposits held in Bradford and Bingley to be transferred to Abbey National plc. Given that this funding replaced retail deposits, the rights of the Treasury and the FSCS in respect of the proceeds of the wind-down and the realisation of Bradford and Bingley's assets rank ahead of subordinated creditors, in the same way that the rights of retail depositors would have been senior to subordinated creditors.

The Treasury also has a claim on the proceeds of the wind-down as Bradford and Bingley's sole shareholder. This claim ranks below the claim of subordinated creditors, in the same way that it is usual for equity to rank below subordinated debt.

EU Grants and Loans

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the 10 largest compensation payments made by the European Commission in respect of the UK in 2008 were. [264001]

Ian Pearson: Information on the 2008 budget allocations for the compensation budget heading may be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/budget/library/publications/budget_in_fig/syntchif_2008_en.pdf

This budget heading now provides temporary measures foreseen in the accession treaties with Romania and Bulgaria, and the details of individual transactions made from this budget heading are held by the European Commission.

European Defence Agency: Finance

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been paid from the public purse in respect of UK contributions to the European Defence Agency in each year since the Agency was established. [263403]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence gave on 6 March 2009, *Official* Report, column 1856W.

European Investment Bank

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what bonuses were paid to staff of the European Investment Bank in the last 12 months; [263999]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Chairman of the European Investment Bank on the effect on the Bank of recent turbulence in financial markets. [264000]

Ian Pearson: The European Investment Bank (EIB) does not publish data on bonuses paid to its staff. EIB does however maintain a policy of not rewarding its management committee with bonuses.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer meets with President Maystadt from time to time, including in the margins of the Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN). The EIB's financial position is reviewed by the bank's board, of which, the UK director to the EIB is a member. The EIB indicates that it is well placed in the current economic and financial conditions.

Excise Duties: Gaming Machines

Mr. Moss: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the effects on revenue from amusement machine licence duty of closures of *(a)* adult gaming centres and *(b)* family entertainment centres in the last 12 months; [264023]

(2) how much amusement machine licence duty was paid on licences for *(a)* category B2 and *(b)* category B3 gaming machines in the last year for which information is available; and what his assessment is of the extraction rates from each category of machine; [264026]

(3) how much revenue was generated by amusement machine licence duty in 2007-08; and how much revenue he estimates will be generated by the duty in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [264027]

Mr. Timms: The total annual and monthly receipts from amusement machine licence duty can be found in the HM Revenue and Customs Betting and Gaming Statistical Bulletin, which is available from the HMRC website address at:

http://www.uktradeinfo.co.uk/index.cfm?task=bullbett

Information on amusement machine licence duty broken down by the type of premises where gaming machines are located is not available.

In 2007-08, it is estimated that category B2 machines paid around £60 million in amusement machine licence duty and category B3 machines paid around £10 million in amusement machine licence duty.

No estimates are available of extraction rates from each category of machine.

Betting and Gaming duty revenue forecasts are aggregated and published as a single series in table B13 of the latest pre-Budget report, at the following link:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr08_annexb_262.pdf

Disaggregated estimates for individual duties within the overall revenue forecast for Betting and Gaming duties are not available.

Mr. Moss: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he is considering the introduction of fiscal measures to assist gaming machine manufacturers; and if he will make a statement; [264024]

(2) if he will take steps to simplify and reduce the compliance costs for operators of the present system of amusement machine licence duty; and if he will make a statement. [264025]

Mr. Timms: The Government keeps all taxes under review including Amusement Machine Licence Duty (AMLD). Any decisions on AMLD will be taken at Budget, alongside all tax and spending decisions.

LGT Group

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many actions for recovery have been initiated by his Department on the basis of the disclosure of information from LGT Bank in the last five years. [264256]

Mr. Timms: HMRC continue to investigate the complex tax arrangements of those individuals who have assets and income within Liechtenstein. We have commenced investigations into the affairs of 155 individuals.

Mapeley

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* HM Revenue and Customs and *(b)* Valuation Office Agency properties were (i) occupied under contract with and (ii) provided with facilities management services by Mapeley at the end of each year since 2002. [264249]

Mr. Timms: Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise entered into the Strategic Transfer of the Estate to the Private Sector (STEPS) contract, a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) outsourcing deal, with Mapeley in April 2001. Following the merger of the two departments in April 2005 the contract is now operated by HMRC.

The table below shows the total number of properties that were *(a)* occupied under the contract with Mapeley and *(b)* provided with facilities management services by Mapeley at the end of each year since 2002.

Year to	*(a) occupied under contract with Mapeley*	*(b) provided with facilities management services by Mapeley*
31 December 2002	576	712
31 December 2003	559	687
31 December 2004	541	702
31 December 2005	513	667
31 December 2006	501	722
31 December 2007	484	700
31 December 2008	461	677

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter dated 1 February 2009 from the right hon. Member for Banff and Buchan on his constituent Mr. Murray of Banff. [263994]

Ian Pearson: Due to the large volume of correspondence received on these issues, there has been a delay in sending some responses. The Financial Services Secretary hopes to be in a position to reply to the right hon. Member shortly.

Performing Arts

John Mason: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has engaged any *(a)* actors, *(b)* musicians and *(c)* performers to support its initiatives over the last [illegible] [264055]

Mr. Timms: Actors have occasionally been commissioned to contribute to training programmes organised by the Treasury. Information is not held centrally on other commissions to actors, or on commissions to musicians or other performers.

Revenue and Customs: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will consider the merits of allocating outstanding work on tax credits to the HM Revenue and Customs office in Chorley. [264076]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs has no plans to move tax credits work to its office in Chorley.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer to which office work currently undertaken at HM Revenue and Customs office in Chorley will be undertaken when the Chorley office closes. [264077]

Mr. Timms: Enquiry Centre services will continue to be provided in Chorley, either in the existing building or one nearby.

All the other work remaining in Chorley will eventually be transferred to other strategic locations where HMRC will be consolidating customer-operations and compliance work. Exactly how and where the work will be moved is still being planned.

Staff in Chorley who cannot relocate to another office will continue to do suitable work, though it may not be the work they are doing now, until redeployment options have been found for them.

Revenue and Customs: North West

Mr. Pope: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost of closing *(a)* Chorley, *(b)* Burnley and *(c)* Accrington HM Revenue and Customs office. [262906]

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the effects on its expenditure of the closure of Lancaster Tax Office in the first 12 months following closure, broken down by budget heading. [263045]

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate HM Revenue and Customs has made of the cost to the public purse of closing its office in *(a)* Chorley, *(b)* Blackburn and *(c)* St. Helens. [264078]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) office closures are part of a wider programme of departmental restructuring in the interests of greater efficiency.

There will be short-term costs, including staff redeployment costs, associated with the closure of offices, but reliable figures will only be established once solutions have been found for all staff and the accommodation has been vacated.

Business restructuring will lead to substantial, long-term savings through business efficiencies as well as from a reduction in the size of HMRC's estate.

Sustainable Development: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of funding for economic recovery stimulus packages being allocated in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire is for environmentally-friendly technologies and companies. [263696]

Mr. Timms: The Government announced at PBR a £535 million green stimulus to support low carbon growth and jobs and support programmes such as Warm Front and Decent Homes that include the installation of thermal insulation and efficient heating technologies, to save energy and cut CO_2 emissions. This funding is being allocated at national—rather than local—level.

The green stimulus included £100 million of new funding for Warm Front, in addition to £50 million funding brought forward. For the current year, 2008-09, £50 million of the new stimulus funding was added to Warm Front funding, making a total for the year of £395 million. Between 1 April 2008 and 25 January 2009, over £346 million of this money had been spent, with 11 per cent. of households assisted located in the East of England region, which includes Hertfordshire.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the merits of increasing the proportion of the training costs of adult apprentices paid by employers. [263498]

Mr. Simon: It is a key principle of Government funding of adult learning that there is a shared responsibility on the part of learners, employers and the Government to contribute towards the cost of learning. The Skills Strategy White Paper "21st Century Skills: Realising our Potential" (published in July 2003) set out our intention that employers and learners should contribute towards the cost of their course, in light of the returns they derive from learning. "Further Education: Raising Skills, Improving Life Chances" (March 2006) confirmed our intention to increase learner and/or employer fee contributions to 50 per cent. by 2010/11 for those not eligible for free provision. Lord Leitch's Review of Skills (December 2006) reaffirmed the importance for a shared responsibility to invest in skills with employers and learners asked to contribute most where they see the greatest private returns. We are therefore increasing private fee contributions for both employers and learners from 42.5 per cent. in 2008/09, to 47.5 per cent. for 2009/10 and 50 per cent. for 2010/11.

Apprenticeship funding rates for adults therefore are lower than rates for young people aged 16-18, with employers expected to contribute to the total cost of an adult apprenticeship framework.

Employer contributions to the cost of adult apprenticeships may be in cash to the training provider or in kind through supporting the delivery of the training activity.

Departmental Absenteeism

Mr. Soott: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many staff of his Department were recorded absent for non-medical reasons on *(a)* 2 February 2009 and *(b)* 3 February 2009; what estimate he has made of the (i) cost to his Department and (ii) number of working hours lost as a result of such absence; and what guidance his Department issued to staff in respect of absence on those days. [260577]

Mr. Simon: The Department issued guidance to staff on the days in question, advising them to make reasonable efforts to come into work and, if this was not possible, to work from home where possible. All DIUS staff are issued with laptops and our telephony enables remote working. Staff were also told to take account of local advice in the light of weather conditions and travel arrangements.

Absences were handled locally by managers and information was not collected centrally on those unable to work. Therefore, the information on staff numbers, costs and working hours lost could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Data Protection

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what auditing his Department undertakes to ensure that IT security policies are being followed; and on how many occasions *(a)* IT security policies have been breached by employees and *(b)* a member of staff has been sanctioned for a breach of such policies in the last 12 months. [259813]

Mr. Simon: Information is a key asset to Government and its correct handling is vital to the delivery of public services and to the integrity of HMG. The Security Policy Framework, the Data Handling Report and the National Information Assurance Strategy produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic framework for protecting information that government handles and put in place a set of mandatory measures which departments must adhere to.

Compliance arrangements comprise a system of self assessment, accreditation, assurance reporting, audit and review. IT security policies are enforced by the system configuration wherever possible. These arrangements are in accordance with the relevant guidelines, code of connection and standards. In the last 12 months there have been no recorded instances where the IT security policies have been broken by employees, and no instances where a member of staff has been sanctioned for a breach of IT security policies.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much has been spent on the recent redesign of his Department's website. [263697]

Mr. Simon: The cost of the recent redesign of the website for the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was £105,166.66 plus VAT.

The website costs include the ability to host the websites of DIUS partners who will be moving their websites to the DIUS site as part of Transformational Government.

English Language: Education

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the Answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 55-6W, on English language: education, how many colleges or schools received funding to deliver courses on English for speakers of other languages in 2008-09; how those colleges or schools were selected; and in what regions they are located. [259138]

Mr. Simon: With regard to colleges the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) provides funding for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) to Further Education colleges as part of their overall allocation for adult learning. 297 colleges received funding to deliver courses in ESOL in 2008/09, spread across all nine regions.

Colleges funded by the LSC to deliver ESOL courses are selected by the same process as other FE provision. The process for agreeing allocations to colleges begins with the LSC's annual Statement of Priorities document which sets out the key policy and investment priorities for the FE sector. Each LSC region produces a Regional Commissioning Statement which sets out the totality of provision to be secured in each region for the next academic year and which sets national priorities in a regional context.

On the basis of the priorities and investment set out in these documents, the LSC then enters a commissioning process with its current college base to secure provision for the next academic year. In some regions, where there has been a strategic need to meet gaps in provision or to improve quality, ESOL provision has been tendered. The LSC commissions with colleges in light of their performance, the quality of their delivery, their capacity and capability, including their financial health. Allocations and contracts are then agreed with colleges based on a planning assumption of the volumes the college will deliver.

Contracts are monitored regularly and robustly for all provision and increases or decreases applied to delivery volumes where appropriate. Other providers including local authorities and private training providers may also receive funds for ESOL provision.

In regard to schools they must ensure that all their pupils develop as competent and confident speakers and writers of English.

Local authorities receive funding through the Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant (EMAG) to provide support for minority ethnic pupils and pupils with English as an Additional Language, who are at risk of underachieving. EMAG is a ring-fenced grant which is distributed to authorities on a formula basis. While local authorities might retain 15 per cent. of their allocation to support central services, they may devolve the remaining 85 per cent. to schools. The grant is around £187 million in 2008-09 and will continue to rise to £207 million by 2010-11.

Schools, through discussion with their community, can offer a range of services which members of the community may choose to take part in, one of those may be the offer of ESOL-type learning. However, it would not be possible to quantify the extent or take up of that offer.

Further Education: Finance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what progress has been made on implementing supported borrowing for post-16 specialist colleges. [264272]

Mr. Simon: Neither the Department nor the Learning and Skills Council—which has responsibility for commissioning and funding post-16 education and training—are in the process of implementing supported borrowing for post-16 specialist colleges.

Medicine: Higher Education

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what response his Department has made to recent representations it has received from the Medical Schools Council and Dental Schools Council on visas for overseas medical and dental undergraduate students; [261913]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect of proposals to restrict the duration of student visas to four years from March 2009 on current undergraduates on *(a)* dental, *(b)* medical and *(c)* architecture courses. [263023]

Mr. Lammy: International students are a very important part of the higher education landscape in this country and the Government are keen to continue to welcome them here. Following discussions with the UK Border Agency, I am pleased to be able to say that it has been agreed that the existing policy whereby visas for international students are awarded for the length of students' courses will continue to operate when the student tier of the Points Based System for managed migration is phased in from March 2009. This decision was announced at the Joint Education Taskforce meeting on 26 February. It means that international students studying longer courses such as medicine, dentistry and architecture will not need to renew their visas part way through their courses.

Postgraduate Education: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people from Enfield North constituency entered postgraduate education in each of the last 11 years. [263916]

Mr. Lammy: The latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency is shown in the table. Figures for the 2008/09 academic year will be available in January 2010.

Postgraduate entrants[1] from Enfield, North parliamentary constituency[2] UK higher education institutions[3]—academic years 1997/98 to 2007/08

Academic year	*Entrants*
1997/98	185
1998/99	255
1999/2000	225
2000/01	215
2001/02	235
2002/03	250
2003/04	275
2004/05	270
2005/06	250
2006/07	260
2007/08	270

[1] Covers entrants to both full-time and part-time postgraduate courses.
[2] Parliamentary constituency is defined by full and valid home postcodes.
[3] Excludes the Open University due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants over the time series.

Note:
Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Students: Loans

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many students domiciled in the EU but not in the UK have loans with the Student Loans Company; [260876]

(2) how much owed by students domiciled in the EU but not in the UK is *(a)* due to have been repaid to the Student Loans Company and *(b)* due to have been repaid but not been received by the Student Loans Company; [260880]

(3) how many students domiciled in the EU but not in the UK are *(a)* due to have begun loan repayments to the Student Loans Company and *(b)* due to have begun loan repayments to the Student Loans Company but have not done so. [260881]

Mr. Lammy: EU students became eligible for tuition fee loans when they were introduced in 2006/07. Provisional figures published in table 2 (iii) of the Student Loans SFR issued in June 2008 show that 16,890 EU students studying in England have taken out a tuition fee loan with the Student Loans Company. The SFR is accessible at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000793/index.shtml

The first full cohort of EU borrowers will graduate this summer, and will become due to start repaying their loans from April 2010. However, a small number have left their courses early, and become due to repay. As at 31 March 2008, 130 EU Student Loans customers studying in England were liable to start repaying their loan, provided their earnings were above the earnings threshold.

Of these students:

30 customers were known to be due to repay, and started to do so. The amount due to be repaid by 31 March 2008 (excluding the amounts due for repayment via Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) which are not yet known) is less than £10,000.

10 customers were not due to repay as they were unemployed or their earnings were below the relevant earnings threshold.

It was not possible, as at 31 March 2008, to determine if 100 customers were due to repay or not. This group includes those where the first tax year's earnings (and hence repayment liability) had not yet been passed from the employer to HMRC to SLC. It also includes those who were resident overseas and the earnings details were still needed to determine whether repayment should start.

Note:

Following usual statistical practice, figures have been rounded to the closest 10 so the breakdown figures will not add up to 130 as shown in the second paragraph. It is not currently possible to disclose information for the period after 31 March 2008. This is because, following National Statistics protocol, the statistics are under embargo until their publication in the Statistical First Release due in summer 2009.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many graduates are continuing to repay mortgage-style student loans taken out before 1998. [261859]

Mr. Lammy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the then Minister of State for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education on 10 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1939-41W. The latest published figures on numbers of graduates continuing to repay pre-1998 mortgage-style student loans is laid out by category as part of the answer to your previous question 220225.

The response remains the same because the information is based on figures prepared for the most recent annual Statistical First Release. It is not currently possible to disclose information for the period after 31 March 2008 because, following National Statistics protocol, the statistics for the period ended 31 March 2009 will be embargoed until their publication in the Statistical First Release due in June/July 2009.

Vocational Training: Car Industry

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what training schemes are available to car component company staff who have lost their jobs owing to reductions in car production during the economic downturn. [253815]

Mr. Simon: Train to Gain are the Government's flagship service to support employers in England of all sizes and in all sectors, to invest in the future productivity and profitability of their businesses by investing in the skills of their employees.

A compact agreed between my Department and SEMTA, the sector skills council covering all aspects of motor vehicle manufacturing, offers employers tailored Train to Gain funding and support to meet their specific training needs. The funding for this compact has been increased from £65 million to £100 million over three years, subject to employer demand.

New flexibility has also been introduced for people who have been given notice of redundancy, or who are returning to work after unemployment. They can now access full funding for repeat level 2 qualifications and partial funding for repeat level 3 qualifications irrespective of the size of their employer.

From April 2009, a new package of pre-employment support will also be available. People made redundant will be offered a fully-funded range of customised skills activity of two to eight weeks' duration designed to help them into sustainable employment. For people who have been employed for over six months, we are making £83 million available for around 75,000 high-quality training places over the next two years.

Employers can contact a skills broker to find out the support that their business can access through Train to Gain. Brokers, providers and the LSC will work with each individual employer to quickly put together a comprehensive training package tailored to the size and type of company, drawing on all available funding streams.

Vocational Training: Prisons

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what arrangements have been made for the provision of vocational training courses within prisons. [264896]

Mr. Simon: Providing vocational training for prisoners is a key part of the Government's strategy to reduce reoffending. Developing the skills prisoners need to get

jobs on release will enable them to secure employment, and employment is one of the key factors that lead to reduced reoffending.

Through the Offender Learning and Skills Service, the Learning and Skills Council provides a broad range of vocational training courses in prisons across England. As the Learning and Skills Council introduces its core curriculum into adult prisons this summer, 80 per cent. of its learning and skills spend will be focused on employability skills, the core functional skills (including literacy and numeracy) and accredited vocational qualifications.

The Prison Service also delivers accredited vocational training to prisoners undertaking regime activities such as catering, cleaning, horticulture, waste management and physical education, and who are working in prison industries.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Maintenance

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many absent parents who are self-employed were subject to court action by the Child Support Agency in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what percentage of such cases resulted in *(a)* a court order requiring payments to be made to the parent with care and *(b)* such payments being made. [259532]

Kitty Ussher: I have consulted with the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission who have confirmed that the information requested is not available.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner as the Child Support Agency is now the responsibility of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many absent parents who are self-employed were subject to court action by the Child Support Agency in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what percentage of such cases resulted in (a) a court order requiring payments to be made to the parent with care and (b) such payments actually being made. [259532]

Information on the total number of enforcement actions the Child Support Agency has pursued through the courts is routinely published in Table 21 of the Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics. The latest copy of which is in the House of Commons library or online at the following link:

http://www.childmaintenance.org/publications/statistics.html

Unfortunately the information that you have requested relating to self-employed non-resident parents is not available as the information held centrally relating to enforcement actions does not distinguish between the employment status of the non-resident parent.

I am sorry I cannot be more helpful.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many calls have been received by the Child Maintenance Options helpline in each month since it became operational; [260116]

(2) how many calls to the Child Maintenance Options helpline have been *(a)* answered and *(b)* abandoned in each month since it became operational; [260117]

(3) what the average time was to answer a call to the Child Maintenance Options helpline in each month since it became operational; [260118]

(4) what the average duration of calls to the Child Maintenance Options helpline was in each month since it became operational. [260119]

Kitty Ussher: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about child maintenance, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions:

How many calls have been received by the Child Maintenance Options helpline in each month since it became operational [260116]; and

How many calls to the Child Maintenance Options helpline have been (a) answered and (b) abandoned in each month since it became operational [260117]; and

What the average time was to answer a call to the Child Maintenance Options helpline in each month since it became operational [260118]; and

What the average duration of calls to the Child Maintenance Options helpline was in each month since it became operational. [260119]

The information you requested is provided in the attached table, from which you will see that a consistently high level of service is being offered to clients of Child Maintenance Options.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child maintenance options, 2008

	July [1]	August	September [4]	October	November	December
Calls Received [2,3]	3,800	3,800	4,600	5,400	5,800	3,900
Calls Answered [3]	3,700	3,800	4500	5300	5,600	3,800
Calls Abandoned [3,4]	100	85	100	115	155	90
Calls Abandoned as a percentage of calls received	3	2	2	2	3	2
Average time to answer [3] (seconds)	10	5	10	10	15	15
Average duration of call [3] (seconds)	420	460	455	435	400	405

[1] Figures for the calls received and the number of calls answered are rounded to the nearest 100.
[2] Calls received include those outside working hours.
[3] Figures for the number of calls abandoned, average time to answer a call and the average duration of calls are rounded to the nearest five.
[4] Calls abandoned are those who have listened to the initial greeting and then: have had a short call and hung up while speaking to an agent; have hung up before speaking to an agent; or have hung up while in a queue.
[5] Figures for July include those from the prototype phase of the service as well as the live running from 14 July onwards.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications the Child Maintenance Enforcement Commission has made to the courts for the confiscation of *(a)* passports and *(b)* driving licences in the last 12 months; and how many confiscations there have been. [264234]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 17 March 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Vauxhall (Kate Hoey) on 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 622-23W.

Community Care Grants

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will review the operation of the savings rule of housing renewal exclusions in community care grants. [264112]

Kitty Ussher: Community care grants can only be made for minor household repairs and improvements. The community care grant savings rule applies to all grant awards, which means that all savings over a set limit are fully taken into account against the amount of an award. Currently the limit is £500 where the applicant and their partner is under 60 years of age, and £1,000 where the applicant or their partner is 60 years of age or over. There are no plans to review this rule.

Council Tax

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many times deductions have been made from benefits for non-payment of council tax in each local authority area since August 2007; and how many claimants have had deductions made from their *(a)* pension credit, *(b)* jobseeker's allowance and *(c)* income support for not paying council tax in each local authority area since August 2007. [262003]

Kitty Ussher: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 25 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 791-92W.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many expert advisers, excluding special advisers, have been commissioned by his Department since June 2007; and on which topics they have advised. [254739]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 20 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 1402W.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has allocated for staff bonuses in 2008-09. [252259]

Jonathan Shaw: Of the total pay bill, less than 1 per cent. has been used for non-consolidated performance payments to staff during 2008-9. These payments are funded from within the existing pay bill. The payments do not add to future pay bill costs.

DWP employees in pay bands below the Senior Civil Service are eligible for non-consolidated performance pay if they attain a "Top", "Higher" or "Majority" rating under the annual performance and development system. The amount of non-consolidated performance pay is differentiated on the basis of an employee's pay band and the performance level achieved.

For the Senior Civil Service, non-consolidated performance pay is determined on an individual basis by the relevant DWP SCS Pay Committee. The size of the available pot is based on recommendations by the independent Senior Salaries Review Body.

Performance awards are payable in July and are attributable to performance in the previous financial year. In the 2008-09 financial year £23.32 million was paid in July 2008 for performance in the previous year. This is broken down as follows:

Staff bonuses: 2008-09

Pay Band	*Total paid (£ million)*	*Total number of recipients*
Below SCS	21.50	107,518
SCS	1.82	208
Departmental total	23.32	107,726

In-Year Reward

Individuals may also be entitled to one-off special payments either as cash or retail vouchers. These are one-off recognition awards, payable at any time during the performance year and are not linked to the annual pay award.

Up to 0.25 per cent. of staff budget is allocated to fund special payments and in 2008-09 this equates to £6.33 million. In 2007-08 £2.7 million was paid in cash payments and £1.77 million in retail vouchers.

Departmental Public Appointments

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information his Department holds on the number of persons appointed to executive positions in bodies for which his Department has responsibility in the last five years who previously had careers in the banking industry. [261227]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Funeral Payments

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Social Fund funeral payments were awarded where the claim for other funeral expenses was under £700 in the latest year for which figures are available. [263437]

Kitty Ussher: The information requested is not available. A funeral payment claim is said to be 'capped' if the amount claimed for non-specified funeral expenses is more than £700. In 2007-08, in Great Britain, of those claims which satisfied the eligibility conditions, the number of claims which were not capped was 2,160. After the amounts payable for specified and non-specified funeral expenses have been determined, deductions are made for any money immediately available from the deceased's estate, payments from funeral plans and contributions

received (but the claimant's savings are not taken into account). As a result of deductions, some eligible claims are refused.

Notes:

1. The figure is based on initial decisions. Re-considerations and appeals have not been taken into account.

2. The figure has been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Wales *(a)* applied for and *(b)* received assistance under the Support for Mortgage Interest Scheme in January and February 2009; and how much was granted in total. [261932]

Kitty Ussher: The information is not available.

Official Engagements

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what official engagements each of the Ministers in his Department undertook from 1 to 31 January 2009; and how much time was spent on each engagement. [254960]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* I am depositing a table of information in the Library. Accurate information on the length of time spent on each engagement could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Poverty: Children

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent research his Department has conducted into the living standards of children below the poverty line. [260793]

Kitty Ussher: The Department for Work and Pensions has recently published three research reports related to the living standards of children in poverty. These are all published in the Department's research report series and are available online.

"Work and well-being over time: lone mothers and their children" follows, over four to five years, lone mothers who voluntarily moved into employment, following a period of unemployment in receipt of income support or jobseekers' allowance. This is available at :

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2007-2008/rrep536.pdf

"Employment transitions and the changes in economic circumstances of families with children" explores the impact of movements in and out of paid employment on the economic circumstances and living standards of families with children. This is available at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2007-2008/rrep506.pdf

"Making decisions about work in one-earner couple households" explores the circumstances of low-income couple families with children, where only one parent is in work. This is available at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rports2009-2010/rrep560.pdf

The Child Poverty Unit, which the Department for Work and Pensions co-sponsors, has two research projects currently in progress which specifically look at the living standards of children living in poverty.

The first is a review of all existing research on the views and experiences of poverty of deprived children and families. The second is analysis of existing survey data, to provide information on the living standards of children below the poverty line. This project examines their standards of living using measures such as level of expenditure, material deprivation, ownership of consumer durables, condition of housing, and presence of financial difficulties.

Reports of these projects will be published in the Department's research report series and will be made available online.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to include targets on reductions in child poverty for local authorities in local area agreements. [263069]

Kitty Ussher: Child poverty is already reflected in the National Indicator Set (Indicator 116—Numbers of children in households dependent on out of work benefits). Local authorities can therefore choose to select child poverty as a target in their local area agreement and 45 have already done so. The Government are already committed to refining this indicator to ensure that low income families are included in this measure. But we need to do more to ensure that all delivery partners prioritise child poverty and take action.

That is why the Government published the child poverty consultation document on 28 January. It set out options for driving forward action to tackle child poverty and asked how best to support local authorities and their partners. The consultation closed on 11 March. We are currently considering the responses to ensure we design support effectively and will respond in due course.

Poverty: North East

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency qualified for cold weather payments between October 2008 and January2009. [257539]

Kitty Ussher: Estimates of the number of people who qualified for cold weather payments between October 2008 and January 2009 are not available by constituency, but only by weather station.

Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency is covered by postcodes TS3-5, 7-9,11-14 and 17. Postcode TS9 is linked to Linton on Ouse weather station which has triggered twice so far this winter. The remaining postcode sectors are linked to Loftus weather station which has triggered once so far this winter. All triggers are based on those notified up to 11 March 2009, though the last trigger was notified on 16 February 2009.

Social Fund

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent version of Jobcentre Plus's Social Fund Work Status Report statistics. [245488]

Kitty Usher *[holding answer 12 January 2009]*: Jobcentre Plus's social fund work status reports are an internal management tool. They are produced weekly and are a snap shot of how much work is outstanding in order to help manage the business.

Work status reports are clerical statistics and are collated weekly at national level to provide management with information on the current levels of work in benefit delivery centres. This enables Jobcentre Plus to promptly move work around the network if needed rather than waiting for the monthly computer produced figures.

Outstanding cases in each benefit delivery centre are clerically counted, collated at regional level and regional returns are then turned into the national picture. These are not robust enough to use as official data. It is therefore not appropriate for a copy of the work status report to be placed in the Library.

Verified data are published in the annual report by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the Social Fund 2007-08, a copy of which is in the Library. It is also available on the Department's website at:

www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/dwp/2008/2008-annual-report-social-fund.pdf

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much lent under the *(a)* budgeting loans and *(b)* crisis loan scheme in each of the last three financial years has been written off. [261508]

Kitty Usher: The amounts written off under the budgeting loans scheme for awards within the last three financial years are:

£000

	Written off in:			
Year of award	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Total*
2005-06	5	251	257	513
2006-07	—	11	102	113
2007-08	—	—	8	8
Total	5	262	367	634

The amounts written off under the crisis loan scheme for awards within the last three financial years are:

£000

	Written off in:			
Year of award	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Total*
2005-06	3	48	86	137
2006-07	—	4	29	33
2007-08	—	—	4	4
Total	3	52	119	174

Social Rented Housing

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make it his policy to remove people under the age of 25 years from the purview of the single room rent regulations; and if he will make a statement. [262349]

Kitty Usher: We have no plans to abolish the single room rent, which is designed to ensure that the level of housing benefit for single young people is based on the size and type of accommodation that they would typically occupy and, importantly, be able to afford.

Social Security Benefits

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what formula his Department uses to calculate *(a)* council tax benefit and *(b)* housing benefit entitlement. [262218]

Kitty Usher: While the Department is responsible for housing benefit (HB) and council tax benefit (CTB) legislation, both benefits are administered by local authorities. There are no formulae, but the assessment processes are set out in the Housing Benefit Regulations and the Council Tax Benefit Regulations.

The calculation of entitlement to HB looks at how much a person should pay towards their rent, assessed against their income and circumstances.

The maximum HB that can be paid is the full amount of the customer's "eligible rent". This is the amount of the rent which the legislation says can be covered by housing benefit, and may not be the same as the full rent charge.

From April 2008 local housing allowance (LHA) has been rolled out nationally in the private rented sector. LHA has changed the way HB is calculated, so it is not just based on the rent, but on a flat rate amount which is determined by factors such as the area someone lives in and the household size.

For private tenants not yet on LHA, the local authority has to decide the "eligible rent". To do this, they have to look at whether:

the amount of rent is reasonable for that particular property;

the property is a reasonable size for the customer and their family;

the amount of rent is reasonable for the area the property is in;

the rent includes any charges which cannot be covered by HB.

In a similar way, the calculation of CTB will depend upon the liability for council tax as well as individuals' personal circumstances.

For these reasons, it is not possible to provide formulae in the way envisaged in the question.

People receiving the guarantee credit element of pension credit, income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance or income-related employment and support allowance are deemed to have no income or capital and they receive maximum HB band/or CTB (subject to any standard deductions for any non-dependant household member).

People not receiving the income-related benefits listed above will have their HB and CTB assessed on the basis of an "applicable amount". The amount is made up of personal allowances and premiums. The personal allowances vary according to age and whether a person is single or one of a married or unmarried couple. The premiums are awarded to those groups identified as having extra needs, for example, long term sick or disabled people and elderly people. The applicable amounts are uprated every April and the current rates are in The Social Security Benefits Up-rating Order 2008 (S.I. 2008/632).

If net income is equal to or is less than the applicable amount, the customer will receive an amount equal to 100 per cent. of their eligible rent and/or council tax liability less any non-dependant deductions. If net income is more than the applicable amount, the customer will get less HB/CTB. For each pound of extra income over the applicable amount, an adjustment of 65 pence will be made in HB and 20 pence will be made in CTB (these are the HB and CTB tapers).

In addition, anyone with savings, investments and other capital valued at more than £16,000 will not normally qualify for HB or CTB. Capital of £6,000 or less is ignored. Capital of between £6,000 and £16,000 will be deemed to provide a weekly income of £1 for every £250 (or part thereof) if the person is aged less than 60, or £1 for every £500 (or part thereof) if they are 60 or over.

Social Security Benefits: Ex-servicemen

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many ex-servicemen are claiming *(a)* jobseeker's allowance, *(b)* incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance, or employment and support allowance and *(c)* income support, broken down by duration of claim; [261016]

(2) how many ex-servicemen have claimed *(a)* jobseeker's allowance, *(b)* incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance, or employment and support allowance and *(c)* income support in each month of the last two years for which information is available; [261017]

(3) how many ex-servicemen have claimed *(a)* jobseeker's allowance, *(b)* incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance or employment and support allowance and *(c)* income support in each year since 1997 for which information is available. [261025]

Mr. McNulty: The information is not available.

It is not possible to identify ex-servicemen who have made a claim to jobseeker's allowance, incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance, employment and support allowance or income support or who are currently in receipt of these benefits. This is because details of former occupations are not recorded on the DWP benefit computer systems.

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his latest estimate is of the timeframe for UK ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. [264146]

Jonathan Shaw: It is my ambition to ratify the convention in the spring, subject to the satisfactory conclusion of the necessary parliamentary processes. We have made good progress and the explanatory memorandum and Command Paper for ratification were laid before Parliament on 3 March. An order to specify the convention as a European community treaty under Section 1(3) of the 1972 European Communities Act has been laid today.

Progressing to this stage, along with the signing of the optional protocol to the UN convention on 27 February, demonstrates the Government's firm commitment both to the UN convention and to the principle that it enshrines that disabled people have, and should enjoy, the same human rights as other people.

Vocational Training: Lone Parents

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what research his Department has undertaken into the reasons that lone parents do not take up voluntary progression to work support offered by Jobcentre Plus. [257316]

Kitty Ussher: A series of evaluations have been undertaken into lone parent programmes and provision.

In 2007, a study of the reasons for non-participation in the New Deal for Lone Parents, the voluntary programme of support for lone parents provided through Jobcentre Plus, was undertaken by independent research contractors BMRB. Specifically, the research aimed to explore: awareness and knowledge of the New Deal for Lone Parents programme; experience and views of the introduction of New Deal for Lone Parents via the Work Focused Interview; reactions to the programme, and; the decision making processes involved in non-participation.

A copy of the research, 'New Deal for Lone Parents: non-participation qualitative research report No. 408', has been placed in the Library.

JUSTICE

Alternatives to Prison

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent steps his Department has taken to develop alternatives to custody. [264047]

Mr. Hanson: The Criminal Justice Act 2003 has provided sentencers with a flexible community order for adult offenders that can deliver a tough and effective alternative to custody. In addition, the Government have: (i) invested since March 2008 in seven intensive alternative to custody demonstrator projects to run for three years and provide courts with enhanced community sentencing options; and (ii) announced on 13 February 2009 investment of £15.6 million over two years to divert vulnerable women, who are not serious or dangerous offenders, from custody.

For young offenders, the Intensive Supervision and Surveillance Programme (ISSP) caters for serious and persistent young offenders who might otherwise be sent to prison, and the Intensive Fostering Programme is a specialised, highly intensive alternative to custody for serious and persistent young offenders whose offending behaviour is directly affected by their home surroundings.

Adult offenders sentenced to Community Payback have, since 1 December 2008, been required to wear distinctive high visibility clothing to ensure that members of the public are aware when Community Payback by offenders is taking place. Intensive Community Payback of a minimum of 18 hours per week over three days is now available in all probation areas for offenders convicted of knife crime offences.

Appeals: Cumbria

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of sentences imposed in magistrates courts in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland constituency were appealed against to the Crown Court in each year since 1997. [263717]

Bridget Prentice: Information is available on the number of offenders sentenced and the number of appeals against sentences from 1997 to 2007, which is set out in the following table. It is not possible to calculate a percentage between these two methods of counting, as one counts 'offenders' and the other 'offences'.

The data for Copeland are reported within two other districts of the Cumbria area (Whitehaven and Furness, and district) and are therefore unavailable separately.

Cumbria

	Total sentenced	*Total appealed against sentence*[1]
1997	16,508	54
1998	15,858	119
1999	15,334	112
2000	13,142	112
2001	10,975	118
2002	10,812	121
2003	14,447	82
2004	14,967	89
2005	14,458	109
2006	14,673	119
2007	14,828	135

[1] Figures include appeals against both conviction and sentence.

Banking

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information his Department holds on the monetary value of financial deposits in each Crown dependency. [264011]

Mr. Wills: The Crown dependencies have their own directly elected legislative assemblies, administrative, fiscal and legal systems. The Ministry of Justice does not keep information on the monetary value of financial deposits in the Crown dependencies. However information on the value of financial deposits is collected by each Crown dependency and published on the websites of the Jersey and Guernsey Financial Services Commissions and the Isle of Man Financial Supervision Commission.

Community Orders

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of people on community sentence placements who *(a)* will and *(b)* will not be required to wear high visibility vests in the next 12 months. [263854]

Mr. Straw: The policy requiring offenders sentenced to Community Payback to wear distinctive high visibility vests was introduced on 1 December. The vests are worn when work is taking place in the potential view of members of the public. The purpose of the vests is to inform people where Community Payback is taking place. Where beneficiaries request in writing that offenders do not wear high visibility vests, exemptions may be granted by the probation area only where convincing evidence is provided on the basis of health and safety concerns, business risk to the beneficiary or suitability of the placement.

Probation areas are actively, engaging with beneficiaries with a view to increasing the number of work projects in which distinctive clothing is used. Distinctive clothing is also not used if a risk assessment, endorsed by a senior manager, determines that distinctive clothing would potentially place the public, supervisory staff or offenders at risk. During January almost 70 per cent. of the hours worked by offenders on sites within the scope of the policy were undertaken using distinctive high visibility clothing.

The actual number of offenders who are required to wear high visibility clothing is not monitored and the cost of obtaining this information would be disproportionate. It is therefore not possible to provide an estimate of the total number of offenders who will be required to wear distinctive clothing during the next 12 months.

Consultants: Expenditure

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what systems are in place in his Department to *(a)* monitor and *(b)* scrutinise its expenditure on consultancy fees. [263782]

Mr. Straw: A mandatory process governing the use and procurement of consultants and specialist contractors is in place across the whole of the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) allowing for the monitoring of expenditure on consultancy fees. The process requires strict adherence to policy and procedure and includes a clear and strict approvals and assurance process.

All requirements are vetted and the commercial route approved by a dedicated and qualified team within the procurement directorate in order to ensure compliance with internal policy and EU public procurement regulations. In the majority of cases (and all cases within NOMS (HMPS) that team go on to deliver all contractual requirements.

The process demands the assignment of a designated contract manager within the business unit. That individual holds responsibility for contractual performance including managing the performance of individual contractors, timely delivery, quality of service, skills transfer and for scrutinising and controlling all costs against the budget and in line with payment mechanism and charging arrangements specified within the contract.

Criminal Proceedings: Cumbria

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost of providing the Crown Court Service in Cumbria was in each year since 1997. [263710]

Bridget Prentice: Prior to the formation of Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS) on 1 April 2005, Crown courts were the responsibility of the Court Service. Consequently, HMCS has no records relating Crown courts prior to 1 April 2005.

The cost of providing Crown court services in Cumbria for each of the last three years were as follows:

Financial year	£000
2005-06	1,722
2006-07	1,637
2007-08	1,540

Domestic Violence: Cumbria

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of those convicted for offences in relation to incidents of domestic violence in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland constituency in each year since 1997 had previous convictions for such offences. [263802]

Mr. Malik: The requested information is not available. The Ministry of Justice's extract of data from the Police national computer can provide information on the previous convictions of offenders. However, the database does not enable us to identify offences involving domestic violence.

Driving Offences: Fines

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average fine imposed for *(a)* driving without insurance, *(b)* failure to stop or report a road accident, *(c)* failure to produce insurance certificate, *(d)* failure to produce test certificate and *(e)* driving otherwise than in accordance with licence was in the last year for which figures are available. [263843]

Mr. Straw: The average fine imposed for using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks, failing to stop after an accident, failing to report an accident within 24 hours, and driving otherwise than in accordance with a licence, in England and Wales for 2007 (latest available) is shown in the following table. Information held on the Court Proceedings Database does not separately identify offences of failure to produce insurance certificate or failure to produce test certificate.

Data for 2008 will be available in the autumn of 2009.

Average fine imposed at magistrates courts and the Crown court for offences of using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks, failing to stop after an accident, failing to report an accident within 24 hours, and driving otherwise than in accordance with a licence, England and Wales, 2007[1,2,3]

Offence description	Average fine (£)	
	Magistrates courts	The Crown court
Using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks	194	204
Failing to stop after an accident	166	231
Failing to report an accident within 24 hours	137	278
Driving otherwise than in accordance with a licence	74	162

[1] Includes offences under the Road Traffic Act 1988 s. 143(2), s.170(4) and (7), the Road Traffic Act 1988 s.87 as amended by Road Traffic Act 1991 s.17 and Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) Regulations 1996 R.16.
[2] It is known that for some police force areas the reporting of court proceedings, in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis unit.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent steps his Department has taken to provide services for those convicted of offences who are dependent on drugs. [264048]

Mr. Hanson: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) has in place a comprehensive framework of interventions addressing drug misuse among offenders.

In prisons, drug treatment funding has increased year on year since 1996-97—up 1.184 per cent. to its current level of £92 million, with record numbers engaging in treatment.

NOMS, in partnership with Department of Health, has made steps to increase the volume and quality of treatment available to prisoners through introduction of the Integrated Drug Treatment System (IDTS).

Implementation of IDTS is progressing well, with all 53 first and second waves of IDTS prisons having an operational service providing all key elements of IDTS clinical services. In 2008-09 a further 38 prison/PCT partnerships have received funding for enhanced clinical drug treatment.

The Prison Drug Treatment Strategy Review Group, announced last year, has been established to consider recommendations made by PricewaterhouseCoopers in a 2007 report on prison drug treatment. The group, chaired by Professor Lord Kamlesh Patel, sets out to agree a single set of priorities and compile national guidance around the streamlining of the commissioning, delivery, funding and performance management of drug treatment for offenders. Work on the review started in September 2008 and is expected to take two years to complete.

In the community, Drug Rehabilitation Requirements —or DRRs—increasingly have been used as part of community sentences. The Government committed to delivering an additional 1,000 DRRs in 2008-09 compared to 2007-08 targets. NOMS is set to meet this commitment.

Drug System Change pilots are planned to start in April 2009. These two-year pilots aim to test innovative approaches to delivering improved end-to-end management of drug users, including more effective use of pooled funding and individual budgets, with a sharper focus on achieving positive outcomes for drug users, their families and their communities.

Electoral Register: Commonwealth

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what criteria apply for a Commonwealth citizen to be lawfully resident under the Representation of the People Act 1983; and what documents an electoral registration officer requires in order to verify that status. [263729]

Mr. Wills: Under the Representation of the People Act 1983, qualifying citizens of other Commonwealth countries are entitled to register to vote at UK general and local elections. The eligibility criteria for such citizens define them as being either those who do not require leave to enter or remain under the Immigration Act 1971 or those who do require leave, but for the time being has any description of such leave. Those who

meet this definition will have an ink stamp or a residence permit in their national passports showing the length of leave granted, and whether there are any restrictions placed on them during that time. Applications to register may only be made by those entitled to do so, subject to criminal penalties for false information. Where an electoral registration officer has doubts about a person's nationality he may require him to provide a certificate, document or declaration evidencing his status.

European Court of Human Rights

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what cases the Government have lost in the European Court of Human Rights in the last 30 years; and what financial penalties have been paid as a result of such outcomes; [264014]

(2) what payments his Department and its predecessors have made to legal firms operating on behalf of the Government in European Court of Human Rights cases in the last 30 years. [264017]

Mr. Wills: All judgments given against the United Kingdom by the European Court of Human Rights and its related bodies, including all awards of just satisfaction, are available online in the court's HUDOC database at:

http://www.echr.coe.int/ECPIR/EN/Header/Case-Law/HUDOC/HUDOC+database/

Legal advisers at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office act as agents for the Government in cases against the United Kingdom at the European Court of Human Rights. In general, external firms of solicitors are not engaged, although counsel are instructed in many cases. No central record is kept of payments made to counsel in such cases, and the information—insofar as it is still extant—for the given period could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

Human Trafficking: Convictions

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been imprisoned following conviction for human trafficking offences in each of the last three years. [263881]

Mr. Malik: The available information is shown in the following table; it shows the number of offenders sentenced to an immediate custodial sentence following conviction for a human trafficking offence.

Persons given immediate custodial sentences for human trafficking offences[1], 2005-07

	Number of offenders
2005	14
2006	20
2007	22

[1] Asylum and Immigration Act 2004 or Sexual offences Act 2003—includes offences of trafficking into, within and out of United Kingdom for purposes of exploitation or sexual exploitation. This data is presented on the principle offence basis.

Notes:
1. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems.
2. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:
OMS Analytical Services, Ministry of Justice

Judiciary: Cumbria

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost of supporting the lay magistracy in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland constituency was in each year since 1997. [263706]

Bridget Prentice: Prior to the formation of Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS) on 1 April 2005, magistrates courts were the responsibility of individual magistrates courts committees. Consequently, HMCS has no records relating to magistrates or Crown courts prior to 1 April 2005.

HMCS accounting records reflect HMCS management structure. This does not necessarily reflect HMCS geographical or court structure. As a consequence, it is not possible to accurately identify all costs attributable to specific courts.

Lay magistracy loss of earnings and travel and subsistence costs in Cumbria for each of the last three years were as follows:

Financial year	*£000*
2005-06	145
2006-07	176
2007-08	122

Magistrates Courts: Cumbria

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the provision of the magistrates court service in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland constituency cost in each year since 1997. [263707]

Bridget Prentice: Prior to the formation of Her Majesty's Courts Service on 1 April 2005, magistrates courts were the responsibility of individual magistrates courts committees. Consequently, HMCS does not hold records relating to magistrates or Crown courts prior to 1 April 2005.

HMCS accounting records reflect HMCS management structure. This does not necessarily reflect HMCS geographical or court structure. As a consequence, it is not possible to identify accurately all costs attributable to specific courts.

The cost of providing magistrates court services in Cumbria for each of the last three years were as follows:

Financial year	*£000*
2005-06	3,490
2006-07	3,731
2007-08	2,940

The cost of district judges costs are not held at court level and have been excluded.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many trials in magistrates courts in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland constituency did not take place on the agreed date of the hearing in each year since 1997. [263716]

Bridget Prentice: Information is only available on the number of trials that failed to take place on the agreed hearing date in each year since 2003 in the magistrates

courts in Cumbria. This information is set out in the following table. The data for Copeland are split and reported within two other districts of the Cumbria area (Whitehaven and Furness, and district) and are therefore unavailable separately.

Period	Total number of trials	Number of trials which did not take place on agreed date
2003-04	1,482	420
2004-05	1,562	415
2005-06	1,668	473
2006-07	1,672	459
2007-08	1,789	541

Offenders: Uniforms

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many beneficiaries of unpaid work have requested that offenders do not wear identifiable clothing. [263841]

Mr. Straw: In January 2009 a total of 2,501 work projects were operated with offenders wearing distinctive clothing and 310,130 hours were worked on these projects. The majority of these projects will have involved groups of offenders working outdoors. 1,298 unpaid work projects were operated without offenders wearing distinctive clothing at the request of the beneficiary and 111,798 hours were worked on these projects.

Where beneficiaries request in writing that offenders do not wear high visibility vests, exemptions may be granted by the probation area only where convincing evidence is provided on the basis of health and safety concerns, business risk to the beneficiary or suitability of the placement. Probation areas are actively engaging with these beneficiaries with a view to increasing the number of work projects in which distinctive clothing is used.

Distinctive clothing is also not used if a risk assessment, endorsed by a senior manager, determines that distinctive clothing would potentially place the public, supervisory staff or offenders at risk. During January almost 70 per cent. of the hours worked by offenders on sites within the scope of the policy were undertaken using distinctive high visibility clothing.

Performing Arts

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has engaged any *(a)* actors, *(b)* musicians and *(c)* other performers to support its initiatives over the last five years. [264057]

Mr. Malik: The Ministry of Justice has engaged the following to support its initiatives in the last five years:

Actors

Victims and Witnesses DVD "Going to Court" in 2007-08

Domestic Violence DVD "You Don't Have to Live in Fear"—2007-08

Community Sentencing CD-Rom "Judge for Yourself"—2007-08

Research report "Diversity and fairness in the jury system"—2005-06

Musicians

18-24 Electoral campaign in 2005-06

Other performers

Nil

Police Custody

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were held in police or court cells for *(a)* two successive nights, *(b)* three successive nights and *(c)* more than three successive nights in 2008. [263839]

Mr. Straw: In 2008 court cells were used between the nights of 5 and 28 February on 1,115 occasions. Out of the 1,115 occasions, there have been 192 occasions where a prisoner was held in court cells for two successive nights. There have been no occasions in which a prisoner was held for three or more successive nights in a court cell.

Although records are kept on the number of occasions prisoners are held in police cells, there is no readily available breakdown on how many prisoners spent more than one night in police custody. This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Police Custody: Costs

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for how much his Department was invoiced by each police force in respect of costs incurred under Operation Safeguard *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each month in 2008; and if he will make a statement. [256659]

Mr. Straw: Operation Safeguard was activated in mid-October 2006 and ended just before Christmas 2006. It was then re-activated between 16 January 2007 and 31 October 2008. Police cells have not been used since 22 September 2008 and no police cells have been on stand-by since the end of October 2008.

As NOMS is invoiced by police forces in arrears, the monthly payments in the following table do not relate directly to the numbers of prisoners held in police cells in each police force in any particular month.

Invoices to the value of £14,373,500 were paid for the activation of Operation Safeguard in the 2006-07 financial year, £50,687,200 for the 2007-08 financial year and £10,790,000 for the 2008-09 financial year (up to 31 December 2008).

The following tables provide a breakdown of cost by police force area for the use of Safeguard in calendar year 2008.

Breakdown of cost by police force area for the use of Safeguard in calendar year 2008

Payments (£)

Police force	January	February	March	April	May	June	July
Bedfordshire	82,436.42	—	80,143.78	—	—	90,619.43	—
Cambridge	—	—	—	548,573.57	—	295,693.20	—
Cheshire	1,195,270.61	—	1,301,098.13	—	1,068,049.71	—	142,449.01

Breakdown of cost by police force area for the use of Safeguard in calendar year 2008

Police force	January	February	March	April	May	June	Payments (£) July
Derbyshire	—	113,735.23	197,496.09	—	157,030.54	83,575.62	—
Devon and Cornwall	247,310.90	—	105,280.45	—	16,537.50	—	126,113.49
Dorset	—	—	52,229.77	—	—	111,006.82	—
Durham	—	—	412,525.51	—	—	—	208,951.30
Dyfed	—	88,067.09	—	—	—	—	—
Essex	435,828.57	—	—	217,730.37	207,903.05	98,690.78	210,065.96
GMP	146,933.09	—	773,584.74	492,479.77	303,232.47	—	293,072.87
Gwent	4,361.55	—	—	179,249.83	—	218,753.52	—
Hampshire	311,113.78	—	93,470.41	—	—	161,117.85	262,228.51
Hertfordshire	103,692.63	—	178,733.90	203,937.34	102,923.43	—	38,011.00
Kent	—	—	290,759.19	288,436.77	—	—	-604.38
Lancashire	—	—	564,388.00	—	201,859.00	—	—
Leicestershire	—	—	927,514.40	23,628.19	49,510.40	266,053.13	121,162.86
Lincolnshire	108,986.38	—	36,341.00	166,013.46	—	—	—
Metropolitan	2,294,279.92	—	983,585.02	6,236,135.15	1,029,660.65	—	1,721,789.20
Merseyside	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,605.58
North Wales	1,679.39	—	—	436,337.55	452,758.10	—	—
South Wales	—	—	—	314,075.31	—	—	953,347.46
South Yorkshire	98,022.82	81,643.56	199,426.15	34,656.33	68,095.49	921.98	—
Staffordshire	—	—	—	—	—	41,297.24	—
Suffolk	—	—	—	—	605,507.69	—	—
Sussex	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thames Valley	256,657.39	—	286,443.72	266,276.05	132,475.66	130,018.66	240,098.36
Warwickshire	—	197,843.05	149,594.25	117,001.80	279.50	231,660.78	—
West Midlands	—	422,856.34	1,084,575.77	—	1,577,130.02	—	347,259.80
West Yorkshire	—	—	992,893.48	181,080.66	232,210.13	320,493.85	—
Cumbria	—	—	80,285.62	69,723.64	66,906.35	—	—
Northumbria	—	—	89,726.00	79,159.00	50,100.00	—	—
Wilts	—	—	—	35,777.04	—	—	2,118.45
Northants	—	—	—	98,415.60	—	—	—
ACPO	—	—	—	40,865.59	—	—	—
Total	5,286,573.45	904,145.27	8,880,095.38	10,029,573.02	6,322,169.69	2,049,902.86	4,670,669.47

Police force	August	September	October	November	December	Payments (£) Total
Bedfordshire	—	—	—	28,219.80	—	281,419.43
Cambridge	147,153.00	—	—	219,446.20	—	1,210,865.97
Cheshire	277,079.41	192,452.24	278,655.71	188,893.45	—	4,643,948.27
Derbyshire	—	14,949.71	38,628.28	—	102,157.42	707,572.89
Devon and Cornwall	—	25,975.91	18,521.53	123,970.07	99,711.46	763,421.31
Dorset	16,626.21	—	—	—	92,227.08	272,089.88
Durham	—	—	—	—		621,476.81
Dyfed	—	—	—	—		88,067.09
Essex	—	—	463,816.94	86,467.14	83,093.63	1,803,616.44
GMP	—	—	—	—	—	2,009,302.94
Gwent	5,855.42	—	—	—	—	408,220.32
Hampshire	—	—	140,990.99	268,400.00	—	1,237,321.54
Hertfordshire	—	85,133.53	78,555.54	30,547.35	—	821,534.72
Kent	105,718.81	425,363.33	—	—	—	1,109,673.72
Lancashire	18,047.00	—	—	—	—	784,294.00
Leicestershire	109,619.52	87,972.44	—	125,226.24	148,114.13	1,858,801.31
Lincolnshire	—	—	—	—	—	311,340.84
Metropolitan	—	1,443,649.96	745,641.01	837,248.46	1,291,180.91	16,583,170.28
Merseyside	—	—	—	—	—	4,605.58
North Wales	10,874.27	—	—	254,578.18	—	1,156,227.49
South Wales	—	598,808.73	—	—	—	1,866,231.50
South Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	—	482,766.33
Staffordshire	—	—	—	—	—	41,297.24
Suffolk	208,719.79	—	109,484.15	124,384.54	—	1,048,096.17
Sussex	—	—	—	—	—	0.00
Thames Valley	119,711.59	—	33,445.86	124,004.54	139,431.53	1,828,563.36

Police force	August	September	October	November	December	Payments (£) Total
Warwickshire	102,156.03	107,301.42	84,245.79	99,671.74	—	1,089,754.36
West Midlands	45,415.46	11,100.81	—	341,411.40	—	3,829,749.60
West Yorkshire	—	138,745.55	126,816.88	—	—	1,992,240.55
Cumbria	—	—	44,248.00	—	—	261,163.61
Northumbria	—	—	—	—	—	218,985.00
Wilts	—	—	—	—	—	37,895.49
Northants	27,194.15	376,236.48	—	—	—	501,846.23
ACPO	39,309.90	7,950.82	20,552.00	—	10,370.58	119,048.89
			—			
Total	1,233,480.56	3,515,640.93	2,283,602.68	2,852,469.11	1,966,286.74	49,994,609.16

Prison Accommodation

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his Department's budget for creating additional prison capacity in each of the next three years is. [263844]

Mr. Straw: The following table shows the current estimated capital cost of the capacity programme in each financial year from 2009-10 to 2011-12. This does not include capital costs for the new large prisons but does include an allowance for the purchase of land for the first.

	Current forecast (£ million)
2009-10	498.14
2010-11	219.39
2011-12	309.30

Prisons: Education

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 23 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2113-4W, on prisons: education, when the report of the randomised control trial of the Prison Service enhanced thinking skills programme scheduled for April 2008 will be published. [264096]

Mr. Hanson: The research of the (short-term) evaluation of HM Prison Service enhanced thinking skills (ETS) programme was published on 9 March 2009.

Two reports were published, the first looked at the actual outcomes of the research, the second the implementation of the randomised controlled trial. Both reports are available on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/enhanced-thinking-skills-programme.htm

Prisons: Females

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many women prisoners were held more than 50 miles from their home address at any time in each of the last five years. [263838]

Mr. Straw: Women are, on average, held slightly further away from home than men as the women's estate is smaller and more widespread. Latest data available (September 2008) indicate that the average distance from home for women prisoners is 57 miles. The number of women prisoners has been relatively stable in recent years (around 4,400).

The following table shows the number of women prisoners held over 50 miles from home in each of the last five years:

	Women prisoners held >50 miles from home	Percentage of women prisoners held >50 miles from home
2004	1,896	45
2005	1,726	41
2006	1,872	44
2007	1,849	44
2008	1,848	44

The figures are taken from sample data, not necessarily in the same month of each year.

Where no home address is listed the committal court is used as a proxy address.

Probation Service: Sick Leave

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many days probation service personnel took in sick leave in the last 12 months. [262436]

Mr. Straw: During the 12 months to December 2008, probation service staff took a total of 239,801 days as sick leave. This equates to an average of 11.5 days per staff year.

A breakdown by probation area and region is provided in the following table.

Measured over the 2008-09 financial year to date (the period from April to December 2008) performance has improved to 11.3 days against a target of 11.5 days.

All probation areas are required to have in place an action plan for achieving a reduction in sickness absence levels. An area's eligibility to apply for trust status is in part dependent on their performance as assessed in the Integrated Probation Performance Framework (IPPF). Performance against the sickness absence target forms part of the overall assessment.

Probation service staff sickness absence: January-December 2008

Probation area/region	Absence during year: Short-term sickness	Long-term sickness	DDA-related sickness	Total days' sickness	Total 'staff years' during year	Average days' absence per 'staff year'
Staffordshire	2,020	2,109	543	4,672	442.1	10.6
Warwickshire	787	712	135	1,634	171.5	9.5
West Mercia	2,744	1,469	624	4,837	399.6	12.1
West Midlands	10,196	9,073	1,089	20,359	1,446.3	14.1
West of Midlands	15,747	13,364	2,392	31,502	2,459.6	12.8
County Durham	1,182	1,447	142	2,771	294.5	9.4
Northumbria	3,935	2,783	1,494	8,212	648.9	12.7
Teeside	1,637	1,391	448	3,477	341.3	10.2
North East	6,755	5,621	2,084	14,460	1,284.7	11.3
Bedfordshire	1,167	752	269	3,188	182.4	12.0
Cambridgeshire	1,699	1,712	294	3,705	245.5	15.1
Essex	2,821	1,016	830	3,866	421.7	9.2
Hertfordshire	1,035	1,425	652	3,112	319.6	9.7
Norfolk	1,605	1,312	491	3,408	293.7	11.6
Suffolk	1,189	346	9	1,543	223.3	6.9
East of England	8,716	6,562	2,544	17,822	1,686.1	10.6
Cheshire	1,584	2,072	478	4,133	373.4	11.1
Cumbria	843	764	119	1,726	179.3	9.6
Lancashire	2,521	2,935	1,160	6,615	569.0	11.8
Greater Manchester	5,394	8,971	1,850	16,215	1,204.2	13.5
Merseyside	2,992	5,424	565	8,981	718.1	12.5
North West	13,333	20,166	4,171	37,671	3,044.0	12.4
Derbyshire	1,956	1,193	308	3,357	364.5	9.2
Leicestershire	3,047	986	85	4,117	527.9	7.8
Lincolnshire	1,320	967	417	2,704	245.4	11.0
Northamptonshire	1,344	696	0	1,940	265.6	7.3
Nottinghamshire	2,551	2,760	997	6,307	553.0	11.4
East Midlands	10,018	6,601	1,806	18,426	1,956.4	9.4
Humberside	2,451	1,640	553	4,644	451.0	9.9
North Yorkshire	892	984	249	2,125	238.9	8.9
South Yorkshire	4,138	4,372	464	8,974	622.3	14.4
West Yorkshire	4,561	4,871	1,645	11,078	1,041.8	10.6
Yorkshire and Humberside	12,043	11,867	2,911	26,821	2,354.0	11.3
Hampshire	3,653	2,439	138	6,230	612.8	10.2
Kent	2,341	3,406	463	6,210	480.4	12.9
Surrey	1,446	695	381	2,522	282.4	8.9
Sussex	2,068	1,429	88	3,585	391.9	9.1
Thames Valley	3,301	3,001	1,031	7,333	657.6	11.2
South East	12,809	10,970	2,089	25,878	2,425.0	10.7
Avon and Somerset	3,137	1,866	247	5,249	566.0	9.3
Devon and Cornwall	2,340	2,674	104	5,017	491.6	10.2
Dorset	1,334	612	106	2,042	267.5	7.6
Gloucestershire	1,337	1,184	0	2,520	168.4	15.0
Wiltshire	825	872	139	1,836	183.0	10.0
South West	8,862	7,206	596	16,664	1,676.5	9.9
London	19,481	14,014	272	33,767	2,644.3	12.8
Dyfed Powys	948	863	162	1,993	177.4	11.2
Gwent	1,567	2,172	8	3,747	270.7	13.8
North Wales	1,146	1,651	24	2,821	252.8	11.2
South Wales	3,070	4,623	739	8,431	591.4	14.3
Wales	6,751	9,308	933	16,992	1,292.2	13.1

Probation service staff sickness absence: January-December 2008

Probation area/region	Absence during year: Short-term sickness	Long-term sickness	Bible-related sickness	Total days' sickness	Total 'staff years' during year	Average days' absence per 'staff year'
England and Wales	134,514	105,480	19,807	239,801	20,822.8	11.5

Re-offenders: Disclosure of Information

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when data regarding multiple offender entries in 2007 will be available. [263952]

Mr. Straw: The Ministry of Justice statistical publication 'Re-offending of adults: results from the 2007 cohort', which will contain a table on multiple offender entries in 2007 quarter one, has been postponed. This was due for publication on 19 March.

This postponement is a result of a technical fault in the programming code used to produce the results. Statisticians need additional time to resolve this fault.

Initial investigations indicate that this fault has resulted in slight errors in the published adult re-offending datasets (from 2000-06). These will be revised when the 2007 cohort data is published.

At present it is not possible to specify a new publication date. However, we will make every effort to ensure that the postponement is as short as possible and will make a further announcement once the statistics are ready for release.

The National Statistician has been informed of this postponement and is satisfied that it is necessary on operational grounds.

A notice about the postponement is available on the Ministry of Justice website:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/news/announcement080309a.htm

Further information on Multiple Offender Entries can be found in Annex C of the publication Re-offending of Adults: results from the 2006 cohort:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm

Reoffenders: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders were charged with each category of violent offence whilst being supervised by the probation service in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in the last (i) six months, (ii) 12 months and (iii) five years. [263084]

Mr. Hanson: The National Offender Management Service holds information on the number of offenders charged with serious further (violent) offences while under probation supervision for the years 2006-07, 2007-08 and for the first six months of 2008-09. However, this does not include all types of violent offence and it is not broken down by town or city. To provide the full information requested would require manual checking of files, which could be undertaken only at disproportionate cost.

The following table contains data on the number of offenders, managed by Hertfordshire probation area, who were charged with certain violent offences, where there was a requirement initially to notify the National Offender Management Service, in line with the serious further offence probation circulars 06/2006 and 41/2006.

The Offender Management caseload statistics, which are published annually, include data on the number of offenders under probation supervision who are charged with serious further offences and whose cases proceed to review, as defined by the relevant probation circulars. Those data are updated to show outcomes, that is, convictions, acquittals, convictions for lesser offences and charges dropped.

The number of offenders convicted of a serious further offence is around 0.35 per cent. of the caseload of the Probation Service nationally.

Table: Notifications of serious further offence (violent offence) charges received by National Offender Management Service for 2006-07, 2007-08 and the first six months of 2008-09

Serious Violent Offence description	Hertfordshire initial notifications: 2006-07	2007-08	1 April 2008 to 30 September 2008
Aggravated burglary (section 10 of the Theft Act 1968)	—	—	1
Aggravated theft	—	—	—
Aggravated vehicle-taking involving an accident which caused the death of any person (Section 12A of the Theft Act 1968)	—	—	—
Arson (section 1 of the Criminal Damage Act 1971)	—	1	—
Attempt to cause explosion, or making or keeping explosive with intent to endanger life or property (section 3 of the Explosive Substances Act 1883)	—	—	—
Attempt to commit murder or a conspiracy to commit murder	1	—	—
Attempting to choke, suffocate or strangle in order to commit, or assist in committing, an indictable offence (section 21 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861)	—	—	—
Burglary with intent to- (a) inflict grievous bodily harm on a person or (b) do unlawful damage to a building or anything in it, (section 9 of the Theft Act 1968)	—	—	1
Carrying a firearm with criminal intent (section 18 of the Firearms Act 1968)	—	1	—
Causing or allowing the death of a child or vulnerable adult, also called 'familial homicide' (Section 5 of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004)	—	—	—
Causing death by careless driving when under influence of drink or drugs (section 3A of the Road Traffic Act 1988)	—	—	—

Table: Notifications of serious further offence (violent offence) charges received by National Offender Management Service for 2006-07, 2007-08 and the first six months of 2008-09

Serious Violent Offence description	*Hertfordshire initial notifications*		
	2006-07	*2007-08*	*1 April 2008 to 30 September 2008*
Causing death by dangerous driving (section 1 of the Road Traffic Act 1988)	—	—	—
Destroying or damaging property other than an offence of arson (section 1 (2) of the Criminal Damage Act 1971)	—	—	—
False imprisonment	1	—	—
Kidnapping	—	2	—
Manslaughter	—	—	—
Murder	—	—	—
Other explosives offences	—	—	—
Other offences against the person	—	—	1
Other serious violent offence	—	1	—
Possession of firearm at time of committing or being arrested for offence specified in Schedule 1 to that Act (section 17(2) of the Firearms Act 1968)	—	1	—
Possession of firearm with intent to endanger life i section 16 of the Firearms Act 1968)	—	—	—
Robbery or assault with intent to rob (section 8 of the Theft Act 1958)	—	1	—
Soliciting murder (section 4 of the Offences against the Person Act 1861)	—	—	—
Use of firearm to resist arrest (section 17(1) of the Firearms Act 1968)	—	—	—
Serious firearms offences (SFO)	—	1	—
Wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm (section 18 of the Offences against the Person Act 1861)	5	2	3
Total	7	10	6

Young Offender Institutions

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of inmates in each young offender institution (YOI) have a registered place of residence in the same local authority area in which the YOI is located. [261521]

Mr. Hanson: In the management of the prison population, the aim is to hold offenders in establishments that: provide the degree of security they require, are suitable to their gender, age and legal status, provide special facilities appropriate to offender needs, and are as close as possible to their homes or the courts dealing with their cases.

The information relating to registered home address is not held centrally and could only be provided by manually checking address data at each establishment at a disproportionate cost.

Using the committal court as a proxy address where no home address is registered, the average distance from home for offenders aged under 21 is 50 miles (data from September 2008).

Young Offenders: Education

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what responsibilities local authorities have to support the training and education of young offenders in custody. [263182]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

Currently local authorities do not have specific legal responsibilities in relation to supporting the training and education of young offenders in custody, although local authority education services are a statutory member of youth offending teams, who play a role in sentence planning for young people in juvenile custody.

However, the current Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Bill proposes to place new duties on local education authorities (LEAs) in relation to education and training for young people in juvenile custody. It includes clauses to:

make LEAs (with custodial establishments in their area) responsible for securing suitable education for young people subject to detention there; and

make the young person's 'home' LEA responsible for taking steps to promote the fulfilment of the person's learning potential while they are in juvenile custody and on their release.

Youth Custody

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many juvenile prisoners aged *(a)* 15, *(b)* 16 and *(c)* 17 years old are being held more than 50 miles from their home address. [263837]

Mr. Straw: Latest data available (September 2008) indicate that the average distance from home for juvenile prisoners is 52 miles.

The following table shows the number and percentage of 15, 16 and 17-year-old offenders held over 50 miles from their home address. Data are from September 2008.

Age	*Number held >50 miles from home*	*Percentage held >50 miles from home*
15	115	46
16	289	41
17	609	41

Where no home address is listed the committal court is used as a proxy address.

Every effort is made to place prisoners under 18 as close to their homes as possible, but the relatively low number of establishments—12 for England and Wales—has always made this inherently difficult for some prisoners. Total numbers of prisoners under 18 have been relatively stable in recent years (under 3,000).

HEALTH

Antidepressants: Costs

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of prescribing anti-depressant drugs in *(a)* each primary care trust, *(b)* strategic health authority and *(c)* England was in each of the last three years; and what steps he is taking to reduce these costs. [261982]

Dawn Primarolo: The net ingredient cost of anti-depressant drugs prescribed in England and dispensed in the United Kingdom, by primary care trusts (PCTs), strategic heath authorities and for England, in the years 2005 to 2007, the most recent full three year period available, have been taken from the Prescribing Analysis and Cost tool (PACT) system and been placed in the Library.

The Improving Access to Psychological Therapies programme (IAPT) began in 2006. This aims to help PCTs implement National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines for treating depression and anxiety disorders, and to make psychological therapies more readily available. We have made a very substantial commitment to IAPT, which will provide patients with a real choice of prescribed anti-depressants or therapy or both. By 2010-11, annual funding for IAPT will rise to £173 million, to train 3,600 extra therapists and treat 900,000 more people in those three years.

Arthritis

Ms Angela C. Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions his Department has had to encourage more widespread and innovative clinician-driven leadership in the commissioning process in respect of the patient journey for patients with rheumatoid arthritis. [263638]

Ann Keen: We are not aware of any recent discussions on innovative clinician-driven leadership in the commissioning process specifically for patients with rheumatoid arthritis.

Domestic Violence: Cumbria

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of treating victims of domestic violence in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland constituency in each year since 1997; [263424]

(2) how many women have been treated at hospitals in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland constituency for injuries sustained as a result of domestic violence in each year since 1997. [263425]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally.

The Department has conducted initial pilot work to explore the best way to collect data in an emergency department, a maternity hospital and a general practitioner surgery. Following that, the Department has undertaken feasibility pilots to test and develop a dataset template in accident and emergency departments to collect de-personalised data on domestic violence.

Domestic Violence: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of treating victims of domestic violence in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in each year since 1997. [263733]

Ann Keen: The information is not collected centrally.

The Department has conducted initial pilot work to explore the best way to collect data in an emergency department, a maternity hospital and general practitioner surgery. Following that, the Department has undertaken feasibility pilots to test and develop a dataset template in accident and emergency departments to collect de-personalised data on domestic violence.

Exercise

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements are in place for organisations to respond to his Department's physical activity strategy for England, "Be active, be healthy: a plan for getting the nation moving." [263894]

Dawn Primarolo: As a part of the Physical Activity plan, the Department is taking forward a range of initiatives with key stakeholders and partners at national, regional and local levels.

We have established a cross-Government Physical Activity Programme Board, jointly led by Department of Health and Department of Culture, Media and Sport, to oversee deliver/of this plan, including progress against two million Legacy Action plan target, and to co-ordinate the regional/local delivery of physical activity alongside sport.

The Government are supporting the creation of physical activity alliance of organisations that share the common aim to deliver a shared vision of a healthier nation through physical activity. The physical activity alliance will add value to the local delivery of physical activity by co-ordinating the activities of its members at all levels and unlocking new resources, for example by working with private sector sponsors.

The Department is providing funding to County Sport and Physical Activity Partnerships (CSPAPs) to enable them to have an integral role in the delivery of national and regional physical activity strategies. The CSPAPs will be responsible for co-ordinating local programmes and investment to deliver physical activity and active recreation alongside sport.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who the members are of the Interim Steering Group for the physical activity alliance as referred to in his Department's publication, "Be active, be healthy: a plan for getting the nation moving." [263897]

Dawn Primarolo: The Interim Steering Group of physical activity alliance members are:

Member	
Sarah Gaventa	CABE Space
Brigid Simmonds	Central Council of Physical Recreation
Christine Double	County Sport Partnerships Network

Member	
Geoff Dessent	Deputy Director, Health Wellbeing, DH (Observer)
Prof. Alan Maryon-Davis	Faculty of Public Health
Andrew Deane	Fitness Industry Association
Tony Armstrong	Living Streets
Paul Raynes	Local Government Association
Paul Lincoln	National Heart Forum
William Bird (Chair)	Outdoor Health Forum
Paul Jarvis	Regional Physical Activity Leads
Ruth Alleyne	Sport England (Observer)
Philip Insall	Sustrans
Rosi Prescott	Central YMCA

Hospitals: Admissions

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many admissions to hospital were due to intentionally self-inflicted injuries in each of the last five years. [263634]

Phil Hope: The data requested is shown in the following table.

Count of admissions[1] to hospital for intentional self-harm[2], 2003-04 to 2007-08: Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

	Deliberate (intentional self-harm)
2003-04	74,683
2004-05	81,561
2005-06	93,814
2006-07	94,382
2007-08	97,871

[1] The technical term for what has been supplied is Finished Admission Episodes

Cause code

The cause code is a supplementary code that indicates the nature of any external cause of injury, poisoning or other adverse effects. The field within HES counts only the first external cause code which is coded within the episode.

[2] Cause codes used:

Deliberate (intentional self-harm): X60-X84 (intentional self-harm), Y87.0 (sequelae of intentional self-harm)

Data Quality

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data is also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid.

Ungrossed data

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

Finished admission episodes

A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

Assessing growth through time

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity.

Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Injuries: Offensive Weapons

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients aged *(a)* under 10, *(b)* between 10 and 15, *(c)* between 16 and 18, *(d)* between 19 and 25 and *(e)* over 25 years old were admitted to hospital through accident and emergency departments in each health trust with a primary or secondary diagnosis of injury caused by a blade or sharp or pointed implement in each of the last five years. [262463]

Dawn Primarolo: Information has been provided on the number of hospital admissions with an external cause code of either 'Assault by sharp object' (x99) or 'Contact with knife sword or dagger' (w26) split by the separated age groups.

It is not possible to provide the data for 'each health trust' because this would result in the need to suppress the majority of figures (any number between one and five poses a risk that individuals may be identifiable). Therefore, the data is provided by strategic health authority (SHA) of treatment (based on the postcode of the main site of the SHA).

This data is limited to those with an admission method of 'Emergency: via Accident and Emergency (A&E) services, including the casualty department of the provider' and 'Emergency: other means, including patients who arrive via the A&E department of another healthcare provider'.

The available information has been placed in the Library and reference should be made to the footnotes and clinical codes when interpreting the data.

MMR Vaccine

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make an assessment of the implications of the decision in the US case of Bailey Banks v. The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services for his Department's policy on the MMR vaccine. [263933]

Dawn Primarolo: In 2007 the United States Court of Federal Claims made a ruling in favour of compensation to the father of Bailey Banks for his non-autistic developmental delay as a result of Acute Disseminated Encephalomyelitis (ADEM) following receipt of measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine. ADEM is an extremely rare condition that has been reported after rabies, diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis, smallpox, MMR, Japanese B encephalitis, pertussis, influenza and hepatitis B vaccines. The Bailey Banks case has no implications for MMR vaccine policy.

NHS Treatment Centres: Private Sector

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* potential and *(b)* actual financial liability his Department accepts for the capital projects associated with independent sector treatment centres. [263695]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has a duty to meet a residual value (RV) payment at contract expiry where such a payment exists under the terms of the contract. RV within the independent sector treatment centre (ISTC) programme relates to buildings and equipment (the assets) provided under the contract as part of the ISTC service.

The total capital liability due at current contract expiry is estimated at £229 million (total cost at expiry) across the ISTC programme. Contracts are due to expire at various points in time between 2009-10 and 2016-17.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provision his Department has made for funding for *(a)* capital value projects and *(b)* revenue budgets associated with the first phase of independent sector treatment centres. [263731]

Mr. Bradshaw: The first phase of the independent sector treatment centre (ISTC) programme was delivered and funded by the private sector. In the event that current contracts are not renewed, the Department would be required to pay any residual value in return for the buildings and equipment. This funding will be accommodated in the capital plan in the year in which the funding is required.

The Department allocates funding directly to primary care trusts (PCTs) based on the relative needs of their populations within the designated area, and in line with the change of pace in policy. A weighted capitation formula determines each PCT's target share of available resources. This enables them to commission similar levels of health services for populations in similar need, as well as reducing avoidable health inequalities. PCTs are responsible for funding activity provided by the ISTCs they sponsor, through their general funding allocation described above.

NHS: Drugs

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of prescription items dispensed by community pharmacists were dispensed to *(a)* people over 65 years old, *(b)* people under 18 years old, *(c)* people eligible for free prescriptions under the NHS low income scheme, *(d)* other people eligible for free prescriptions and *(e)* patients who can be charged for prescriptions (i) in England and (ii) in each primary care trust area in each year since 1997. [255451]

Dawn Primarolo: It is not possible for NHS Prescription Services to provide data on the number of prescriptions issued free of charge to patients aged 65 and over as the age of the patient is not captured. Therefore, data have been provided for those patients who were exempt because they are aged 60 and over.

The information requested is shown in the following table. Estimates are based on a sample of one in 20 prescription forms and cover only those prescriptions dispensed by community pharmacists and appliance contractors in England. It is not possible to provide separate figures for community pharmacists. The figures exclude personally administered items and items dispensed by dispensing doctors.

Prescription items dispensed by community pharmacists and appliance contractors in England by charged prescriptions and defined categories where no prescription charge is made, 1997 to 2007

		Estimate:				*Actual:*
	Total prescription items dispensed (million)	*Prescription items for people aged 60 and over (%)*[1]	*Prescription items for children under 16 and 16-18 year olds in full-time education (%)*[2]	*Prescription items under NHS Low Income Scheme (%)*	*Prescription items for other people eligible for free prescriptions (%)*	*Prescription items for people not exempt from the prescription charge (%)*
1997	454.3	49.3	10.9	15.3	10.0	14.6
1998	467.1	50.1	10.0	14.8	10.6	14.6
1999	481.9	52.3	9.1	13.8	9.9	14.9
2000	500.5	54.0	8.3	13.2	9.6	14.9
2001	533.1	55.1	7.9	12.8	9.5	14.7
2002	560.7	56.0	7.3	12.8	9.5	14.4
2003	590.1	56.9	6.8	12.8	9.6	13.9
2004	622.5	58.1	6.3	12.7	9.7	13.2
2005	651.5	57.9	6.2	12.3	11.0	12.5
2006	682.4	59.4	5.9	12.0	10.5	12.0
2007	722.9	59.7	5.6	11.4	11.9	11.4

[1] Estimates can be produced only for those aged 60 and over (i.e. the age at which the entitlement to free prescriptions starts) not 65 and over.
[2] Estimates can be produced only for those aged under 16 or aged 16-18 and in full-time education.
Note:
Figures do not necessarily sum to 100 per cent. due to rounding
Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA)

Only national data for England have been provided. It is not possible to provide a breakdown by PCT as the data are based on a sample of one in 20 prescription forms, which is only suitable for estimating at national level.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1512W, on NHS: drugs, which NHS bodies his Department has assessed as having failed to comply with National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence statutory funding directions. [262949]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not routinely assess national health service compliance with the statutory direction requiring NHS organisations to make funding available for technologies recommended by technology appraisal guidance published by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE).

Compliance with NICE's technology appraisals and other nationally agreed guidance is a core standard for NHS organisations. The Healthcare Commission has assessed compliance with the core standard as part of the annual health checks. The 2007-08 annual health checks show that 95 per cent. of NHS organisations were able to provide evidence of compliance with the core standard which incorporates NICE's technology appraisals. An overview of the 2007-08 annual health check is available at:

http://2008ratings.healthcarecommission.org.uk/informationabouthealthcareservices/overallperformance/thebiggerpicture.cfm

and a copy has been placed in the Library.

Orphan Drugs

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will request the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to develop separate appraisal criteria for ultra orphan drugs; and if he will make a statement. [263849]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government have no plans to ask the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to establish a separate appraisal system for ultra orphan drugs. However, this position is kept under review in the context of other developments relating to the Government's policy on new drugs.

The Department and NICE are currently consulting on proposed revisions to the process and criteria for selecting topics for referral to NICE'S technology appraisal work programme. The consultation document is available at:

www.nice.org.uk/getinvolved/suggestatopic/

and a copy has already been placed in the Library.

Smoking: Health Services

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the cost to the NHS of treating smoking-related diseases in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland in each of the last five years. [263804]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland have received assistance from the NHS to stop smoking in each of the last five years. [263805]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available in the format requested. However, data on the number of people setting a quit date and successfully quitting through the National Health Service Stop Smoking Services are available for the Cumbria Teaching Primary Care Trust (PCT) in 2006-07 and 2007-08 and for the former Cumbria and Lancashire Strategic Health Authority (SHA) and its constituent PCTs for 2004-05 to 2006-07.

Information for 2007-08 is available from the annual Statistics on NHS Stop Smoking Services in England, April 2007 to March 2008. This information can be found in table 3.5 on page 28.

Information for 2006-07 is available for both the old and new SHA and PCTs from the annual statistics on NHS Stop Smoking Services in England, April 2006 to March 2007. This information can be found in table 2.12 (old breakdown) and table 5.4 (new breakdown) on pages 18-19 and 65 respectively.

Information for 2005-06 is available for both the old SHA and PCTs from the annual statistics on NHS Stop Smoking Services in England, April 2005 to March 2006. This information can be found in table 4.12 on pages 37-38.

Information for 2004-05 is available for both the old SHA and PCTs from the annual Statistics on NHS Stop Smoking Services in England, April 2004 to March 2005. This information can be found in table 19 on pages 52-53.

All of the above publications have already been placed in the Library.

Social Services: Elderly

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to ensure that his Department's funding allocation for social care in the next comprehensive spending review period is adequate to meet the needs of older people; and if he will make a statement. [264080]

Phil Hope: The funding priority for social care for older people is a matter for local councils. They have responsibility to ensure that the care needs of older people are met within their communities from the resources available to them. These resources come from central Government allocations to local authorities, grants from the Department, locally raised council tax and local fees and charges.

The Secretaries of State for Health and Communities and Local Government will make representation to the Treasury for them to consider the allocations that are made to local authorities by the Chancellor in his next spending review, which will include evidence on the demographic and other pressures that councils will face as a result of the ageing society.

Strokes: Health Services

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many primary care trusts have *(a)* implemented local needs assessments for stroke services and *(b)* developed workforce action plans as referred to in the National Stroke Strategy published in December 2007. [263446]

Ann Keen: All primary care trusts have completed a joint strategic needs assessment (JSNA). A number of the core indicators for JSNA are relevant to stroke. We do not hold information centrally on the extent to which individual primary care trusts have implemented JSNA plans for stroke nor on whether they have developed workforce action plans, as set out in the stroke strategy.

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of stroke patients who spend the majority of their in-patient stay in designated stroke units. [263447]

Ann Keen: The NHS Operating Framework for 2008-09 and 2009-10 identify stroke services as a key national health service priority. A new data collection was introduced in 2008-09 to monitor progress toward the Tier One indicator measuring the number of stroke patients who spend at least 90 per cent. of their time on a stroke unit. Additional guidance is being produced to improve this data collection and we expect to have management information available in summer 2009.

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many national audits of stroke services have been carried out since December 2007. [263448]

Ann Keen: One national audit has been carried out since December 2007. This was the "National Sentinel Stroke Audit Phase 1 Organisational Audit" and was published by the Royal College of Physicians in August 2008. The clinical phase of the audit is due to be published at the end of April 2009.

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of progress towards the implementation of the national stroke strategy published in December 2007; and what plans he has to publish a progress report. [263449]

Ann Keen: Stroke Networks have now been established across England and have started their work reviewing and organising delivery of stroke services across the care pathway. Significant progress is being made in implementing the stroke strategy but we acknowledge there is still work to be done. Later this year the Department will commission an independent evaluation of the implementation of the stroke strategy which will cover the whole stroke pathway from awareness to long term care and support. Our intention is to publish the evaluation report.

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made towards the development of the assessment measures for vascular risk factors as referred to in the National Stroke Strategy. [263461]

Ann Keen: A vascular risk assessment and management programme is being developed that will target the group of modifiable risk factors shared by heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease. The analytical modelling and evidence base underpinning this programme indicate that there are significant health gains to be made in this area. Primary care trusts will be responsible for the commissioning of the programme for their populations and phased implementation will begin in 2009-10.

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment he has made of progress on the provision of advice and assistance to stroke patients and their carers as referred to in the National Stroke Strategy; [263463]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of progress on increasing access to rehabilitation services and community support for stroke patients. [263471]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally. The Department will commission an independent evaluation of the implementation of the stroke strategy later this year, which will cover the whole stroke pathway from awareness to long term care and support.

We have provided ring-fenced central funding totalling £45 million over the three years 2008-09 to 2010-11 to local authorities in England to support implementation of the stroke strategy and help improve the way they deliver stroke care for adults in the community. Information to date suggests that local authorities are working jointly with their national health service partners, with stroke networks and the voluntary sector to improve and accelerate community support services for stroke survivors and their carers using this new funding. The Stroke Association has been funded by the National Audit Office to undertake an evaluation of community-based rehabilitation units.

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of progress towards ensuring that lower risk suspected trans ischaemic attack patients are seen by a medical professional within seven days as referred to in the national stroke strategy. [263465]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally. The Department will commission an independent evaluation of the implementation of the stroke strategy later this year, which will cover the whole stroke pathway from awareness to long term care and support. Our intention is to publish the evaluation report.

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate his Department has made of the proportion of patients with suspected stroke who were transferred to hospitals providing 24-hour hyperacute services in *(a)* December 2007 and *(b)* the latest month for which figures are available; [263466]

(2) what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of hospitals able to provide patients suspected of having had a stroke with a multi-disciplinary assessment on admission. [263470]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally. The Department will commission an independent evaluation of the implementation of the stroke strategy later this year, which will cover the whole stroke pathway from awareness to long term care and support.

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the number of hospitals able to provide 24-hour thrombolysis for suspected stroke patients. [263467]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally. The National Sentinel Stroke audit, prepared by the Royal College of Physicians and which is based on clinical data, collected directly from national health service trusts, details the latest evidence on the provision of stroke services to patients. While a significant number of units offer a thrombolysis service, the most recent audit (August 2008) states that the number offering a 24-hour/seven day a week service is low. The audit is available at the College's Internet site at:

www.rcplondon.ac.uk/clinical-standards/ceeu/Current-work/Documents/Public%20organisational%20report2008.pdf

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the level of provision for stroke patients to receive *(a)* carotid intervention and *(b)* echocardiography within 48-hours of a stroke. [263468]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally. The Vascular Society conducts a continuing survey, which examines adherence to this recommendation in the strategy.

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of patients diagnosed with a stroke or trans ischaemic attack who receive clinical follow-up within one month as referred to in the National Stroke Strategy. [263469]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally. The Department will commission an independent evaluation of the implementation of the stroke strategy later this year, which will cover the whole stroke pathway from awareness to long term care and support.

West Nile Virus

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what stockpile of vaccine there is to protect people against West Nile virus; what further funding his Department will provide for this purpose; and if he will make a statement. [263901]

Dawn Primarolo: No vaccine currently exists to protect humans against West Nile virus, therefore there are no plans to stockpile such vaccine.

The disease is transmitted by mosquitoes and there is an equine vaccine against West Nile virus. However, mammals (such as horses) rarely have viruses in their blood for long enough to infect an insect vector and contribute to onward transmission.

Although the risk for infection in the United Kingdom remains low, the Department published 'West Nile virus: A contingency plan to protect the public's health' in May 2004.

A copy of this plan has been placed in the Library.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Furs: Retail Trade

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will introduce a ban on the use of animal fur in retail products. [259878]

Mr. Thomas: In response to public concern, the Government successfully called for an EU-wide ban on the trade in domestic cat and dog fur which came into force on 31 December 2008 and is pursuing an EU-wide ban on the trade in pinniped products (seals, sea-lion and walrus).

However, we have no plan to introduce a ban on the use of animal fur in retail products.

Manufacturing Industries: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much in loans has been guaranteed by his Department to each automotive company for investment in lower carbon initiatives since 27 January 2009. [260607]

Ian Pearson: The Automotive Assistance Programme (AAP) announced on 27 January did not receive state aid clearance until 27 February. It is now open for business and can receive applications. BERR held a seminar on 11 March to bring together industry, banks and the relevant trade bodies to make sure that the application process runs as smoothly and effectively as possible. No loan guarantees have yet been issued under the AAP.

Oil: Reserves

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what level of compulsory oil stocks EU member states are required to hold; and how many tonnes of oil this equates to in the UK. [253308]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I have been asked to reply.

Under EU Council Directive 2006/67/EC, member states of the European Union (EU) are required to hold stocks of oil and oil products equivalent to 90 days of national inland consumption, but because the UK is a producer of crude oil from the UK Continental Shelf, its obligation is reduced by 25 per cent. to 67.5 days.

The UK's current obligation equates to 11.1 million tonnes. The UK met its obligation with a surplus of over 2 million tonnes in November 2008, the latest figure available.

Woolworths

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what information his Department holds on the number of former Woolworths shop premises which have been occupied by other businesses. [260896]

Mr. Thomas: According to the administrators Deloitte LLP, around 200 stores have been sold either to third party tenants or landlords. The remaining stores are being returned to landlords.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of the effects of the economic downturn on the delivery of private finance initiative contracts relating to the Building Schools for the Future programme; and if he will make a statement. [255277]

Jim Knight: The Department is continuing to monitor the impact of the current economic conditions on capital programmes such as BSF, and is working with Partnerships for Schools (PfS) and HM Treasury to ensure the programme moves forward as planned. On 3 March 2009, my right hon. Friend the Chief Secretary to the Treasury announced Government action to safeguard capital infrastructure investment in projects being delivered through the private finance initiative.

PfS have been able to secure a commitment in principle from the European Investment Bank (EIB) for £300 million to support BSF schemes that have PFI investment. PfS were also successful in closing the BSF Tameside deal in February which included a significant PFI contribution.

Building Schools for the Future: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will make it his policy to bring forward capital spending under the Building Schools for the Future programme in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Castle Point for economic reasons; and if he will make a statement. [263281]

Jim Knight: It is not our policy to bring forward Building Schools for the Future (BSF) investment to act as a fiscal stimulus because of the strategic planning that underpins BSF. BSF typically involves the building of entire new schools; so design and planning need care and time. Accelerating the construction would curtail

this planning and would thereby jeopardise the quality and transformational nature of the programme. We are however working with Partnerships for Schools to simplify procedures and accelerate delivery, and the procurement process has already been accelerated and costs reduced.

BSF investment already announced and in the pipeline provides substantial underpinning to the construction industry. It is now building momentum so that by 2011, over 200 revamped or rebuilt schools will be being opened. Over 1,000 BSF schools across 80 local authorities already engaged in the programme. This includes two major school investment projects in Castle Point which are proceeding on schedule for delivery in 2012.

In December 2008, we offered local authorities the opportunity to bring forward schools capital allocations from 2010-11 into 2009-10 where they could accelerate projects to provide a fiscal stimulus and give pupils and teachers the benefit of early investment. Essex authority asked for a £13.2 million advance from a possible maximum of £30.2 million. In addition to meeting this request, we have advanced to its schools £10 million of devolved formula capital, so that they can bring investment benefits early for their pupils and staff.

Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many cases have been transferred between Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service offices in each of the last five years; [261590]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the additional time taken to make access arrangements arising from the transfer of cases between Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service offices. [261690]

Beverley Hughes: Transfer of cases between Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) offices are recorded on the Case Management System, which was rolled out to all CAFCASS offices on 1 April 2007. No transfer data are available prior to this date.

The following table shows the national transfer of cases between CAFCASS offices over the last two financial years.

Financial year	*Case transfers*
2007-08	4,878
2008-09 to date	4,950
Total	9,828

CAFCASS does not collect information on time taken to make access arrangements arising from transferring cases between CAFCASS offices.

Children: Databases

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1823-4W, on children: databases, what the cost was of each contract with Capgemini. [263141]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1823-4W, on children: databases, according to departmental records the cost of each contract with Capgemini was:

Expired business services framework agreement for the period January 2002 to September 2008—£127,865,880 (includes VAT)

Current business services framework agreement for the period October 2008 to January 2009—£7,732,767 (includes VAT)

ContactPoint—details of expenditure on this contract have been given in response on, 4 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1676W.

Corporate Service Transformation programme (July to October 2006)—£207,811

Corporate Service Transformation programme (July to October 2008)—£279,255

Expert advisers to work with low-performing schools (November 2008 to March 2008)—£31,920

Government Departments can reclaim input VAT on a limited range of contracted-out services. Capgemini charges cover a mixture of recoverable and non-recoverable services. The values for the three consultancy contracts are taken from management information returns that do not give the VAT status of expenditure. While it is likely that the cost shown excludes VAT, it has not been possible to confirm this without incurring disproportionate cost.

Children: Day Care

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many childcare places there were in West Lancashire constituency in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2008. [261968]

Beverley Hughes: The available information is shown in the tables.

Table 1: Number[1,2] of day care places for children under eight years of age by type of provider Lancashire local authority area—position at 31 March 1997

Type of provider	*1997*
Day nurseries	9,900
Playgroups and pre-schools	8,200
Childminders	8,700
Out of school clubs	1,100
Holiday schemes	1,500

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 if under 100, and to the nearest 100 if over 100.
Source:
[2] Children's Day Care Facilities Survey.

Table 2: Number[1,2] of registered childcare places for children under eight years of age by type of care Lancashire local authority area—position at 31 March 2008

Type of care	*2008*
Full day care	18,500
Sessional day care	3,500
Childminders	5,500
Out of school day care	9,200
Crèche day care	400

[1] Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 if under 100, and to the nearest 100 if over 100.
Source:
[2] Ofsted

Since 2003 Ofsted has been responsible for the registration and inspection of child care providers. Ofsted has produced figures on the numbers of registered child care providers

and places on a quarterly basis from March 2003. Their latest figures were published in their report "Registered Childcare Providers and Places, August 2008", which is available on their website,

www.Ofsted.gov.uk/

Children: Disabled

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent by each local authority in England on handling complaints relating to care packages allocated to severely disabled children in each of the last five years. [263965]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Costs incurred in handling complaints about social care packages for severely disabled children come from local authority budgets, which are determined locally. This information is not collected centrally.

Children: Social Services

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the present performance assessment indicator C23 is for each local authority children's services department; what assessment Ofsted has made of the optimum indicator for each authority; and what recommendations Ofsted has made for changes to each authority's indicators. [263676]

Beverley Hughes: This performance indicator, produced annually to 2007-08, showed the number of children who ceased to be looked after during the year as a result of an adoption or special guardianship order, as a percentage of the number of children looked after at 31 March who had been looked after for six months or more on that day. The data for 2007-08 are shown in the table.

Ofsted set no optimum level for this indicator. The indicator is no longer used to assess the performance of local authorities. From April 2008, the only indicators used to assess such performance are those in the single set of national indicators published in October 2007. This includes an indicator relating to the timeliness of placements of looked after children for adoption following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption, and one relating to the length of placement.

Number of looked after children adopted during 2007-08 as a percentage of the number of looked after children at 31 March 2008

England LA name	*Percentage*
City of London	—
Camden	12.9
Greenwich	8.5
Hackney	14.0
Hammersmith and Fulham	18.9
Islington	8.2
Kensington and Chelsea	13.8
Lambeth	6.1
Lewisham	6.9
Southwark	10.1
Tower Hamlets	10.5
Wandsworth	9.2
Westminster	15.7
Barking and Dagenham	12.6
Barnet	7.4
Bexley	12.4
Brent	8.0
Bromley	7.7
Croydon	5.6
Ealing	9.5
Enfield	7.2
Haringey	8.8
Harrow	14.3
Havering	9.4
Hillingdon	10.7
Hounslow	7.7
Kingston upon Thames	—
Merton	8.0
Newham	8.0
Redbridge	—
Richmond upon Thames	—
Sutton	18.6
Waltham Forest	8.5
Birmingham	5.5
Coventry	5.0
Dudley	5.4
Sandwell	8.1
Solihull	7.0
Walsall	11.1
Wolverhampton	7.3
Knowsley	6.3
Liverpool	7.9
St. Helens	8.0
Sefton	7.2
Wirral	7.4
Bolton	12.8
Bury	8.2
Manchester	5.5
Oldham	10.8
Rochdale	9.0
Salford	6.6
Stockport	11.0
Tameside	6.6
Trafford	4.5
Wigan	9.3
Barnsley	13.9
Doncaster	7.6
Rotherham	8.1
Sheffield	11.5
Bradford	5.3
Calderdale	10.2
Kirklees	9.4
Leeds	7.9
Wakefield	8.6
Gateshead	8.8
Newcastle upon Tyne	10.3
North Tyneside	8.7
South Tyneside	11.2
Sunderland	9.0
Isles of Scilly	—
Bath and North East Somerset	7.2
Bristol	8.8
North Somerset	6.1

Number of looked after children adopted during 2007-08 as a percentage of the number of looked after children at 31 March 2008

England LA name	*Percentage*
South Gloucestershire	7.9
Hartlepool	12.1
Middlesbrough	4.8
Redcar and Cleveland	6.7
Stockton-on-Tees	6.9
Kingston upon Hull	7.6
East Riding of Yorkshire	6.0
North East Lincolnshire	5.5
North Lincolnshire	9.3
North Yorkshire	6.6
York	10.7
Bedfordshire	11.0
Luton	7.3
Buckinghamshire	14.2
Milton Keynes	10.0
Derbyshire	10.2
Derby	10.5
Dorset	3.1
Poole	7.8
Bournemouth	8.7
Durham	13.9
Darlington	11.6
East Sussex	11.7
Brighton and Hove	12.3
Hampshire	10.8
Portsmouth	5.2
Southampton	11.2
Leicestershire	13.4
Leicester	8.8
Rutland	—
Staffordshire	8.8
Stoke-on-Trent	7.8
Wiltshire	4.1
Swindon	11.5
Bracknell Forest	—
Windsor and Maidenhead	10.7
West Berkshire	—
Reading	12.0
Slough	14.1
Wokingham	—
Cambridgeshire	8.4
Peterborough	11.9
Cheshire	4.7
Halton	10.6
Warrington	10.1
Devon	9.1
Plymouth	7.9
Torbay	6.1
Essex	8.0
Southend	6.4
Thurrock	7.5
Herefordshire	11.8
Worcestershire	9.8
Kent	11.6
Medway	8.3
Lancashire	8.5
Blackburn with Darwen	7.1
Blackpool	10.3
Nottinghamshire	7.7
Nottingham	12.2
Shropshire	3.7
Telford and Wrekin	10.1
Cornwall	16.0
Cumbria	7.9
Gloucestershire	8.0
Hertfordshire	7.6
Isle of Wight	7.2
Lincolnshire	9.1
Norfolk	6.8
Northamptonshire	12.7
Northumberland	13.2
Oxfordshire	14.8
Somerset	6.7
Suffolk	11.9
Surrey	10.0
Warwickshire	7.4
West Sussex	9.1

Departmental Bank Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with which banks his Department has or has had contracts for the provision of financial advice, for the financial year 2008-09. [262765]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) has not entered into any such contracts and does not obtain financial advice from banks in connection with any of its policies.

DCSF is subject solely to advice from the Treasury in the discharge of its financial responsibilities.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many *(a)* expert advisers, *(b)* special advisers and *(c)* consultants were employed by his Department in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement; [258957]

(2) how many *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* expert advisers his Department has employed in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [263969]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Since 2003 the Government have published on an annual basis the names and numbers of special advisers in each pay band. For the most recent information I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 99-102WS. Information on the employment of special advisers prior to 2003 was provided at regular intervals and is available in the House Libraries.

In keeping with good procurement practice most external expert advisers and consultancy engagements placed by the Department are based on a requirement for the delivery of outcomes or outputs, and not for the number of experts or consultants employed.

Our management information system reflects this and records the numbers and values of contracts or engagements, rather than individual expert advisers or consultants. We are, therefore, unable to answer the question in the way it has been asked.

Departmental Postal Services

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of letters sent by his Department were given to *(a)* the Royal Mail and *(b)* another postal services provider for delivery in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [259966]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In the period February 2008—January 2009 the Department for Children, Schools and Families either directly or through its distribution partner has sent a total of 769,901 letters using Royal Mail postal services. Of these 449,901 (58 per cent.) were sent directly from the Department via Royal Mail and a further 320,000 (42 per cent.) were sent on the Department's behalf also via Royal Mail by Prolog the Department's publications storage and distribution provider.

Faith Schools: Islam

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will commission research into allegations of physical violence against pupils attending madrasas in the UK. [262890]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department has no current plans to commission research into allegations of physical violence against pupils attending madrassahs.

Family Intervention Projects

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what sanctions or penalties a family may be subject to if it refuses to engage in a Family Intervention Project. [263183]

Beverley Hughes: While a family's initial involvement in a Family Intervention Project is voluntary, the projects draw on the range of sanctions that a family or family members may already be facing. These include seeking possession of a family's tenancy, a parenting order, antisocial behaviour order, proceedings to take children into care and juvenile specific orders. Once families have agreed to take part, a contract is drawn up with the family setting out the changes that are expected, support that will be provided and sanctions that may be used if changes are not made. Early evaluation of Family Intervention Projects has shown that they are helping to reduce antisocial behaviour and prevent homelessness.

GCSE

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools did not have more than 30 per cent. of pupils achieving five or more A* to B grades at GCSE, including English and mathematics in 2008. [251118]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools had less than 30 per cent. of pupils achieve *(a)* five A* to C grades at GCSE excluding equivalents and *(b)* five A* to C grades including English and mathematics at GCSE excluding equivalents in the latest year for which figures are available. [250364]

Jim Knight: The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which maintained secondary schools did not achieve 30 per cent. or more GCSEs including English and mathematics in 2008 when equivalents were excluded. [259103]

Jim Knight: The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Health Education: Sex

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether the review group on sex and relationships education (SRE) consulted parents about what should be taught as part of SRE and at what ages; and if he will make a statement. [263293]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The purpose of the review of sex and relationships education (SRE) in schools was not to decide the precise content of schools' SRE programmes. Rather, its purpose was to consider what action is needed to improve SRE delivery.

As a result of the review, we have announced our intention to make PSHE statutory and to develop a statutory programme of study, which sets out—in high-level terms—a common core of knowledge and skills that all young people should be taught. We will, however, retain the flexibility for individual school governing bodies to determine how material should be presented and what teaching resources schools use to support delivery of their SRE programmes.

The Government's response to the SRE review also committed us to develop updated SRE guidance for schools. Both the PSHE programmes of study and new SRE guidance will be subject to a full public consultation.

To inform its decisions, the SRE steering group commissioned a review of the existing evidence on parents' views on SRE. This evidence—along with evidence on Ofsted, teachers' and young people's views on SRE, as well as a literature review of international evidence—were considered by the steering group when deciding what recommendations to make to Government.

We agree with the SRE review steering group that the provision of SRE should be a partnership between parents and schools. Parents should lead on instilling values in their children, but schools have a clear role in giving young people accurate information and helping them to develop the skills they need to make safe and responsible choices.

Performing Arts

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department has engaged any *(a)* actors, *(b)* musicians and *(c)* other performers to support its initiatives over the last five years. [264066]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Since its inception, in June 2007, actors, musicians and performers have appeared in some of the Department's marketing campaigns. The Department has also secured unpaid celebrity support, including actors, musicians and performers for some of our campaigns, most notably the National Year of Reading TV filler. Given the wide range of audiences and the challenging nature of some of our priority advertising and publicity messages the use of big voices, advocates and high profile celebrities (where the selected 'voice' has a resonance or a known link to the message or there is a strong argument that the individual or individuals have a high level of influence within a particular audience group) this is one way we would look to deliver and influence to our markets.

Public Opinion

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on *(a)* opinion polling, *(b)* focus groups and *(c)* other forms of market research in each year since its inception; what surveys were commissioned; and what the purpose was of each. [261266]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Since its inception in June 2007 the Department has spent £1,845,528 on public surveys such as opinion polling, focus groups and other forms of market research. It is not possible to break this figure down into constituent parts, except at disproportionate cost.

Schools: Admissions

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of children of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school entry age in (i) England, (ii) Enfield local education authority area and (iii) Enfield North constituency gained a place at their (A) first and (B) second choice school in each of the last 11 years. [263912]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: 2008 was the first year that local authorities were required to provide data to the Secretary of State on secondary school offers made on the day that parents are notified of their school places. This year's data were published on 12 March. Data are not collected at a constituency level.

This year, figures for Enfield local authority show that 62.1 per cent. of children resident in the authority who are eligible to transfer to secondary school in September 2009, and who applied for a place, were offered their first choice school. 15.1 per cent. were offered their second choice school. Last year these figures were 62.2 per cent. and 16 per cent. respectively.

The figures for England show that 83.2 per cent. of children who are eligible to transfer to secondary school in September 2009, and who applied for a place, were offered their first choice school. 8.4 per cent. were offered their second choice school. The figures for 2008 were 82 per cent. and 8.7 per cent. respectively.

The day that parents are notified of their secondary school place is the first part of the process of obtaining a preferred school. These figures are likely to change by September as places become available or appeals are successful.

The Department does not collect data on offers of primary school places.

Social Services: Haringey

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what inspections the Commission for Social Care Inspection has undertaken in relation to Haringey Council's children's services since 2001. [263919]

Beverley Hughes: The Commission for Social Care Inspection had functions relating to children's services from its inception in April 2004 until those functions passed to Ofsted in April 2007. It participated in a joint area review of children's services by 10 relevant inspectorates in 2006. It inspected the local authority fostering agency in January 2005, November 2005 and January 2007, and reported the inspection undertaken by its predecessor, the social services inspectorate in February 2004; and it inspected the local authority adoption agency in 2005. It also undertook, with Ofsted, an annual performance assessment of Haringey's children's services in 2005. The social services inspectorate inspected Haringey children's services in 2002, and with the Commission for Health Improvement and HMI Constabulary undertook an inter-agency inspection of child protection services in 2003.

Special Educational Needs: Disadvantaged

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many special schools there were in the most deprived decile of lower layer super output areas as determined by the income deprivation affecting children indices in 2008. [262349]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information is given in the following table:

Number of special schools[1] in the most deprived decile of lower layer super output area by income deprivation affecting children indices[2]

IDACI decile of school location	*Number of special schools*
0-10% most deprived	117

[1] Special schools including foundation special, community special and non-maintained special.
[2] Income deprivation affecting children index 2007.
Source:
School Census 2008

Special Educational Needs: GCSE

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) in which special schools more than 30 per cent. of pupils achieved five A* to C grades at GCSE in 2008; [257662]

(2) in how many maintained special schools more than *(a)* 10, *(b)* 20 and *(c)* 30 per cent. of pupils achieved five A* to C grades at GCSE in each year since 1997. [257659]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Every year the Department publishes information on the performance of pupils in examinations as part of the Achievement and Attainment Tables:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/performancetables/schools_08.shtml

From this webpage, you can select the local authority (LA) or school of interest, by using the search by institution/search by postcode/browse by region or browse by constituency options.

For every school, the percentage of pupils achieving five or more grades A*-C at GCSE is published. This information can be found within the "KS4 results" tab at the top of the LA page.

Special Educational Needs: Pilot Schemes

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 201-2W, on special educational needs: pilot schemes, (1) what eight projects the Lamb inquiry has commissioned; [263365]

(2) how much funding has been allocated to each pilot; who will assess the effectiveness of each pilot; and when they will report on the matter. [263366]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Details of the eight projects that the Lamb inquiry has commissioned can be found at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/lambinquiry/downloads/LambInquiryprojectsummary.pdf

We have committed £1 million of funding over 2007-09, for the "No to Failure" pilot project. Dr. Chris Singleton is currently preparing the project's final evaluation report, which is likely to be published shortly.

Dyslexia Action is receiving funding of £250,000 over 2008-10 to run the "Partnership for Literacy" pilots. The effectiveness of the pilots is being evaluated by the university of Durham's Centre for Evaluation and Monitoring. Dyslexia Action published a report of the project's first two years on 2 March. It is expected that they will then publish the final evaluation early in 2010.

We have also allocated £31 million over two years for the Achievements for All pilot projects. We are currently tendering for an organisation to conduct an external independent evaluation.

The British Sign Language pilot project will be receiving £800,000 for up to two ygars over 2009-11. The details on the evaluation process have yet to be finalised.

The pilot project to improve the supply of curriculum materials for visually impaired and dyslexic pupils is still in contract negotiations. Bidders were required as part of their initial bid to lay out stringent plans for an evaluation process, and we will be making details available as soon as that process is complete.

Teenage Pregnancy: Rotherham

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of trends in the rate of teenage pregnancy in the Metropolitan Borough of Rotherham; and if he will make a statement. [263043]

Beverley Hughes: The under-18 conception rate in Rotherham fell by 10.5 per cent. between 1998 (the baseline year for the Teenage Pregnancy strategy) and 2007 (the latest year for which data are available). This is in line with reductions in Yorkshire and Humber region (-10.3 per cent.) and England as a whole (-10.7 per cent.).

The Department of Health's teenage pregnancy national support team (NST) will be visiting Rotherham in April 2009 to offer support designed to accelerate progress towards the local area's under-18 conception rate reduction target, based on lessons learnt from local areas where teenage pregnancy rates have fallen fastest. Support from the NST supplements the routine support and challenge provided by the regional government office.

Young Offenders: Crime Prevention

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the results of the 18 pathfinder projects to increase the support for the parents of children and young people at risk of offending; and how much has been spent on such pathfinders to date. [263958]

Beverley Hughes: The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not fund any pathfinder projects that solely focus on parents of children and young people at risk of offending. Since 2006, DCSF has been running the Parenting Early Intervention Programme (PEIP) which aims to increase support for the parents of children and young people at risk of negative outcomes. Findings from an independent evaluation of the 18 PEIP pilots by Warwick university (2006-08) found that the programme attracted over 3,500 parents in need of support to manage their children's behavioural difficulties. The evaluation found that the pathfinder was successful in rolling out three evidence-based parenting programmes with high levels of positive gains for parents and their children. The final PEIP evaluation report was published in July 2008 and can be found on the DCSF website at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/researchrevisions/DB/RR056014941/index.shtml

By the end of 2008-09, up to £16 million will be spent on the PEIP. Up to a further £54 million will be spent on the programme over 2009-11 as it is extended to every local authority.

Youth Clubs

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of provision of activities at youth centres at times of the day when young people are most likely to commit criminal offences. [263185]

Beverley Hughes: Local authorities have a duty to secure access to positive activities for their young people and to provide them with information on the availability of these activities. We are currently mapping provision in 81 local authority areas, including where it is located and when it is open. This activity aims to identify any possible shortfall in provision on Friday and Saturday nights when the incidence of youth antisocial behaviour is at its highest. This work is ongoing. The information will be used to support the Government's OPEN drive aimed at influencing local areas to increase provision of positive activities on Friday and Saturday night.

The Government have also provided additional funding to these 81 local authorities to boost Friday and Saturday night provision and 'all' local authorities will receive a significant increase in their provision for Positive Activities for Young People in 2009-10—with a strong expectation of an increased focus on Friday and Saturday provision.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Building Our Common Future Conference

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many people who *(a)* attended and *(b)* spoke at his Department's building our common future conference on 9 to 10 March 2009 had their (i) flights and (ii) accommodation paid for in full or in part by his Department; and what the cost to his Department was in each category. [263432]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) paid in full or in part, the flights and accommodation costs for 58 conference delegates invited from overseas, of whom 14 were speakers or expert panel discussants. A breakdown of the costs is as follows:

(i) Total cost of flights for Speakers was £14,687.83

Total cost of other delegates' flights was £38,152.46

(ii) Total cost for accommodation for Speakers was £2,868

Total cost for accommodation for other delegates was £11,352.30

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the cost to his Department was of *(a)* organising and *(b)* hosting its building our common future conference on 9 to10 March 2009. [263433]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Costs for the building our common future conference on 9-10 March 2009 are still being finalised. The forecast costs are as follows:

(a) Organising costs, including event preparation and management, participants registration and support, audio-visual costs, stage set and graphics, exhibition costs, conference materials, signs and display materials: £292,048 excluding VAT;

(b) Hosting costs, including venue hire, lunches and refreshments for over 700 participants over the two days, accommodation and travel costs for 58 participants invited from overseas, the provision of a prayer room and carbon offsetting: £166,285 excluding VAT.

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* fees and *(b)* expenses his Department paid to the external speakers who chaired sessions at its building our common future conference on 9 to 10 March 2009. [263434]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) paid no fees and expenses to external speakers for chairing sessions at the 'Building our Common Future' conference on 9 and 10 March 2009.

China: Poverty

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Government assistance in reducing poverty in China. [264198]

Mr. Michael Foster: The International Development Committee (IDC) issued its report on the Department for International Development's (DFID) programme in China on 11 March (HC 180-1). A copy of the report has been placed in the Library of the House and is available on the DFID website:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmselect/cmintdev/180/180.pdf

The IDC concluded that

"DFID's programmes in China have been extremely effective. The Department has succeeded in doing what very few donors have achieved in China: it has built influential relationships with policy-makers and has found an approach that really works in terms of having an impact on reducing poverty in China—and all with what is, relatively, a very small amount of public money. Cost-efficiency has been maximised by DFID's technique of demonstrating small-scale successes which have subsequently been scaled up by the Chinese Government to national level."

Departmental Publications

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 26 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1004W, on departmental publications, what the total monthly circulation of his Department's "Developments" magazine is; and how many copies are sent to Government Departments in each month. [263643]

Mr. Michael Foster: The circulation of the quarterly magazine "Developments", as of 11 March 2009, is 88,873 copies, of which, nine copies are sent to other Government Departments.

Departmental Training

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department has provided voice coaching to any of its employees in the last 12 months. [260651]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: No DFID employees have undertaken specific voice coaching.

Sri Lanka: Politics and Government

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment his Department has made of the humanitarian situation in the north of Sri Lanka. [263517]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has continued to make limited assessments, hindered by the Sri Lankan Government's refusal to allow free and full access to the conflict area. DFID has deployed humanitarian specialists to Colombo for some time and a first brief visit, organised by the Sri Lankan Government, took place on the 11-12 March. The DFID specialist was able to confirm that the fierce fighting between the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eleam (LTTE) and Government of Sri Lanka forces has caused the humanitarian situation to deteriorate. Approximately 230,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) are trapped in a decreasing area of LTTE control in the Vanni region.

Reports indicate high numbers of civilian casualties, including many women and children. The International Committee of the Red Cross has made efforts to evacuate more than 2,000 wounded by sea but this is currently blocked by the Sri Lankan Government. There remains an acute need for food and medical supplies and for agencies to be allowed access to the area to deliver desperately needed humanitarian assistance.

We are also concerned about 40,000 IDPs who have escaped and are now subject to heavy control in camps in Vavunia, Mannar and Jaffna districts, where access for agencies to deliver supplies and observe screening processes is also heavily restricted.

As well as exerting pressure on the Sri Lankan Government to improve access, we have allocated an extra £2.5 million of humanitarian assistance to agencies working in Sri Lanka, bringing the total to £5 million this year.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment his Department has made of *(a)* the scale of the cholera epidemic, *(b)* food security and *(c)* prospects for economic stabilisation in Zimbabwe. [263518]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The World Health Organisation (WHO) reports that there are now around 90,000 cholera cases in Zimbabwe with over 4,000 deaths. The figures suggest that the number of new cases is starting to decline and better care at health institutions means that the death rate is also coming down. However, with continuing rains and the fragile state of water and health systems, WHO estimates that the total number of cases may well exceed 100,000.

Recent nutritional assessments have highlighted the seriousness of the food situation and the clear need for ongoing aid. The proportion of children under age five who are underweight was estimated at 17 per cent., a rate that has not changed since 2003 while chronic malnutrition has slightly declined by 2 per cent. to 27 per cent. The number of acutely malnourished children is increasing but at 4.8 per cent. remains below internationally recognised emergency levels (10 per cent.) across the country. UN figures suggest that seven million people will have received food aid in Zimbabwe by February 2009. The next harvest will partly alleviate the situation but early projections suggest a similar scale of food insecurity in 2009-10, with a peak before next year's harvest.

Economic stabilisation in Zimbabwe will be tough due to the low starting point. GDP has shrunk by 50 per cent. in a decade with all economic sectors suffering from a failure of Government policy. In addition, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe has printed the Zimbabwe dollar out of existence so the economy is rapidly dollarising. The IMF and other major financial institutions are currently undertaking missions to Zimbabwe and it is hoped that this will give the international community a clearer picture of the extent of the problem and how best to rectify it.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Departmental Bank Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with which banks his Department has or has had contracts for the provision of financial advice, for the financial year 2008-09. [262749]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In 2008-09, the Department has held no contracts for the provision of financial advice with a bank.

Departmental Data Protection

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department uses WPA2 encryption protocol on all its wireless networks. [259796]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: DECC follows CESG guidance on the use of the Wi-Fi Protected Access 2 (WPA2) communications security protocols in order to protect wireless networks carrying protectively marked (up to RESTRICTED/IL3) traffic. The configuration and operation standards for WPA2 are set out in CESG's Infosec Manual Y, Use of WPA2 Wireless Security in Government Systems.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what auditing his Department undertakes to ensure that IT security policies are being followed; and on how many occasions *(a)* IT security policies have been breached by employees and *(b)* a member of staff has been sanctioned for a breach of such policies in the last 12 months. [259797]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department of Energy and Climate Change is currently using IT systems provided by the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, and is subject to the audit and reporting arrangements for those departments.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's IT security hierarchy. [259798]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department is currently using IT systems and IT security services provided by the Department of Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs, therefore it does not have a separate IT security hierarchy.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what scanning for vulnerabilities his Department conducts of each of its IT devices; what method is used for IT device scans; and how many vulnerabilities have been detected as a result of such scans in the last 12 months. [259799]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: It is not in the interest of the security of the Department, or that of the public, to disclose detailed information pertaining to electronic breaches of security of Department's IT systems. Disclosing such information would enable criminals and those who would attempt to cause disruptive threats to the Department to deduce how to conduct attacks and therefore potentially enhance their capability to carry out such attacks.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what IT security policy his Department has; what procedures are in place to ensure the policy is being followed; what his Department's policy is on

encryption of data when it leaves departmental premises; and what sanctions are in place for failure to comply with this policy. [259855]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department is currently using IT systems provided by the Department of Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs, and uses the IT security policies applicable to those systems. This includes the policy on encryption of data. Failure to comply with these policies is normally treated as a disciplinary matter.

Departmental Pay

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff transferred to his Department receive annual remuneration including benefits of £100,000 or more. [257597]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: There are six employees of the Department of Energy and Climate Change who are earning a salary of £100,000 or more from a total staff complement of around 900, all of whom transferred from other Departments.

The Department would incur a disproportionate cost if it were to report how many employees are in receipt of an annual remuneration including benefits (salary, bonus payments and pension benefits) of £100,000 or more.

Departmental Recycling

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much *(a)* paper, *(b)* plastic and *(c)* other waste has been produced by his Department since its inception; and how much of that waste was recycled. [253291]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Since its inception, the Department has made use of BERR's and DEFRA's recycling systems. Given that, I refer the hon. Member to the answers given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for Farming and the Environment (Jane Kennedy) on 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 678W, and by my right hon. Friend the Minister for Employment Relations and Postal affairs (Mr. McFadden) on 12 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2292W.

Electricity Generation

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much electricity was generated from each type of renewable source in each of the last 10 years. [263022]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Data for the years 1990 to 2007 are in the following tables. Data for 2008 will be published in July 2009.

Renewable sources used to generate electricity (GWh)

			Hydro			
	Wind and wave	*Solar photo-voltaics*	*Small scale*	*Large scale*[1]	*Landfill gas*	*Sewage sludge digestion*
1990	9	—	127	5,080	139	316
1991	9	—	142	4,482	208	328
1992	33	—	149	5,282	377	328
1993	217	—	159	4,143	447	378
1994	344	—	159	4,935	517	361
1995	392	—	166	4,672	562	410
1996	488	—	118	3,275	708	410
1997	667	—	164	4,005	918	408
1998	877	—	206	4,911	1,185	386
1999	850	1	207	5,128	1,703	410
2000	946	1	214	4,871	2,188	367
2001	965	2	210	3,845	2,507	363
2002	1,256	3	204	4,584	2,679	368
2003	1,285	3	150	2,987	3,276	394
2004	1,935	4	283	4,561	4,004	440
2005	2,904	8	444	4,478	4,290	470
2006	4,225	11	478	4,115	4,424	456
2007	5,274	11	534	4,554	4,677	517

	Biomass					
	Municipal solid waste combustion[2]	*Co-firing with fossil fuels*	*Animal biomass*[3]	*Plant biomass*[4]	*Total biomass*	*Total*
1990	141	—	—	—	596	5,812
1991	150	—	1	—	688	5,320
1992	177	—	52	—	934	6,398
1993	252	—	122	—	1,198	5,717
1994	449	—	192	—	1,518	6,956
1995	471	—	199	—	1,642	6,871
1996	489	—	197	—	1,805	5,685
1997	585	—	199	—	2,110	6,945
1998	849	—	234	—	2,654	8,648

	Biomass					
	Municipal solid waste combustion[2]	*Co-firing with fossil fuels*	*Animal biomass*[3]	*Plant biomass*[4]	*Total biomass*	*Total*
1999	836	—	459	1	3,429	9,616
2000	840	—	456	31	3,882	9,914
2001	880	—	542	234	4,526	9,549
2002	907	286	568	272	5,080	11,127
2003	965	602	535	602	6,174	10,600
2004	971	1,022	565	382	7,364	14,147
2005	964	2,533	468	382	9,197	16,940
2006	1,083	2,528	434	363	9,288	18,116
2007	1,177	1,956	555	409	9,291	19,664

[1] Excluding pumped storage stations.
[2] Biodegradable part only.
[3] Includes electricity from farm waste digestion, poultry litter combustion, and meat and bone combustion.
[4] Includes electricity from straw and energy crops.
Source:
Digest of UK Energy Statistics 2008, Internet only long term trends annex to Chapter 7.

Electricity: Planning

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to ensure that the National Policy Statement on electricity transmission networks will prevent the construction of high voltage lines in Areas of Outstanding National Beauty and National Parks; and if he will make a statement. [264145]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: National Policy Statements (NPSs) for Energy Policy including that for electricity networks infrastructure will be consulted on later this year.

Energy: Consumption

Dr. Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of annual average household electricity consumption comprised by the operation of *(a)* a refrigerator, *(b)* a freezer, *(c)* a television, *(d)* a computer, *(e)* a central heating water pump and *(f)* lighting. [263609]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: From data published in the Digest of UK Energy Statistics, it is estimated that the average electricity consumption of UK households is around 4,400 kWh per year; this average includes households that use electricity for space heating.

Analysis carried out by DEFRA's Market Transformation Programme suggests that the electricity consumption attributable to selected product groups is:

	Total UK electricity use (GWh)	*Electricity use per household (kWh)*	*Percentage of annual average household electricity consumption*
Refrigerators	2,495	94	2
Upright freezers	2,726	103	2
Chest freezers	1,515	57	1
Fridge-freezers	8,745	331	8
Televisions	14,415	546	12
Computing	12,811	485	11
Circulators (central heating water pump)	2,867	130	3
Lighting	17,289	654	15

The "use per household" figures assume that, with the exception of lighting, each household has one of each appliance; however this will not necessarily be the case for an average household.

The remainder of the electricity delivered to the domestic sector is largely used for cooking, space heating and hot water.

Legal Opinion

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the cost was of external legal services engaged by his Department since its establishment. [251363]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: It is not possible to answer this question without incurring disproportionate costs.

Lord Truscott

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of each meeting held between representatives of his Department and Lord Truscott since the creation of his Department. [256945]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 23 February 2009]:* There have been no meetings between Ministers in this Department and Lord Truscott.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when the Minister of State expects to reply to the letters of 19 November and 30 December 2008 from the hon. Member for Forest of Dean, on Oakenhill opencast coal site, reference FD8841. [252857]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 29 January 2009]:* I apologise to the hon. Member for the delay in responding to his letters, which were answered on 9 March.

Natural Gas

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to improve the security of gas supply from non-EU sources. [259586]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The UK sees diversity of sources of imported gas as vital for the EU's security of energy supply. Recent events have underlined the importance to the EU of being supplied with gas from a wide range of countries. The development of a southern corridor, with the aim of bringing gas to the EU from the Caspian region through Turkey or directly across the Black Sea, and in the longer term from the Middle East, is crucial to that end. The UK therefore strongly supports the efforts of the European Commission and fellow EU Member States to develop a southern corridor and this Department is actively engaged in these efforts.

The Commission's second Strategic Energy Review (SEER2) of November 2008 affirmed the importance of a southern corridor as one of the EU's highest energy priorities and the importance, to that end, of increasing high level political engagement with potential gas supplier countries, such as Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Iraq. The European Commission and current Czech presidency of the EU have made this a priority for 2009 and we are working closely with them.

The UK also sees it as important for there to be a diverse selection of routes for gas to enter the EU and for this reason we support the building of new pipelines, under market conditions, to bring gas from established suppliers to the EU such as Norway, Russia and Algeria. In addition to pipelines, Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), imported by tanker from countries such as Qatar, Trinidad and Tobago, Egypt, Algeria and Nigeria, also plays an important role in diversifying gas supply to the UK and other EU member states.

The UK's own security of gas supply has been improved in recent years by new import infrastructure projects such as the BBL (Netherlands-UK) and Langeled (from Norway) pipelines, expansion of the (Belgium-UK) IUK pipeline and the new LNG import terminal at the Isle of Grain. Two further major LNG import terminals at Milford Haven are expected to be commissioned soon.

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how long the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority has been without a permanent chief executive; when he plans to appoint a permanent replacement; and what salary and compensation package he expects the new chief executive will receive. [263566]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 16 March 2009]:* Dr. Ian Roxburgh left the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority in August 2008 (although he remained available to provide advice until 31 December 2008). The process to appoint a new chief executive is ongoing and the NDA hopes to conclude the process in the near future. In the meantime, the NDA has continued to make good progress under the leadership of Richard Waite, Strategy Director, who has been acting CEO since August 2008. The salary package for the new chief executive was advertised at around £380,000, depending on the candidate.

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the final annual salary of the outgoing chief executive of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority was; and what his *(a)* final departure package and *(b)* pension arrangements are. [263567]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 16 March 2009]:* The outgoing chief executive Dr. Ian Roxburgh's final annual salary was £213,459.

The "Remuneration Report" included in the NDA's Annual Report and Accounts (to be laid before Parliament in July 2009) will contain information related to any emoluments.

Dr. Roxburgh was a member of the Civil Service PCSPS scheme and attained the equivalent of 40 years service on attaining his 60th birthday. His pension arrangements under the scheme are in line with the scheme rules. Dr. Roxburgh transferred his private sector pension entitlement into the civil service scheme.

Oil

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has a timetable for planning purposes under which the UK will reduce its dependence on oil. [262924]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government are taking a number of measures to promote greater energy efficiency and diversify the energy mix across all sectors of the economy, including through increased use of low carbon and renewable energy sources, improved vehicle emission standards, and biofuels and electricity in road transport.

Performing Arts

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has engaged any *(a)* actors, *(b)* musicians and *(c)* other performers to support its initiatives over the last five years. [264067]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I am informed that we have no central record of such people being engaged by the Department.

Radioactivity

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will make an assessment of the adequacy of the criteria used in decisions on whether an inquiry under Regulation 17 of the Justification of Practices Involving Ionising Radiation Regulations 2004 should be held. [263993]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Justification of Practices Involving Ionising Radiation Regulations 2004 provide that the Justifying Authority may cause an inquiry or other hearing to be held if it appears to him expedient to do so in connection with the exercise of any of his functions under these regulations.

The regulations do not explicitly prescribe any criteria to be applied by the Justifying Authority when considering whether to hold an inquiry or other hearing. Rather, the Justifying Authority will need to consider what is reasonable in the circumstances of a particular case. This approach is entirely sensible given that the justification regulations apply to a very wide range of classes or types of practice and any decision whether to hold an inquiry in a particular case will necessarily depend on the particular circumstances of each individual case. This might for instance include consideration of the extent to which the public have an opportunity to engage in the process.

The Government guidance on the regulations similarly relates to a very wide range of cases. It states that

"where the Justifying Authority considers that any application is of sufficient importance and wide public interest, they may cause a public hearing or other inquiry to be held. It is expected that inquiries under the regulations would only be held in relation to major or contentious classes or types of practice."

While Government will obviously have regard to this guidance when considering whether to hold an inquiry, it will need to make any decision on whether to hold an inquiry on the merits of individual cases.

Renewable Energy

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to paragraph 74 of the UK Renewable Energy Strategy consultation, on what basis the estimates of increases in gas bills by 2020 necessary as incentives for renewable energy deployment were made. [263990]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Gas price impacts presented in the RES consultation document are driven by the proposed financial incentive mechanisms on renewable heat.

The impact of these incentives on future prices and bills are estimated by taking into account the pass through of the costs of the policy through the suppliers into gas prices and bills. Costs are calculated by taking into account the cost of the renewable heat technologies versus conventional heating technologies as well as estimates on demand and supply side barriers that need to be overcome to incentivise renewable heat uptake under different scenarios.

The net impact on gas prices is dependent on our baseline assumptions of average domestic and industrial bills up to 2020. We are in the process of revising our analysis which will be published alongside the final Renewable Energy Strategy this year.

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to paragraph 7.5.35 of the UK Renewable Energy Strategy consultation, what steps he plans to take to counter the principal constraints to the provision of biomass infrastructure. [263992]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government continue to consider the issues raised by paragraph 7.5.35 of the consultation paper and will announce their intentions in the Renewable Energy Strategy, to be published later this year.

Renewable Energy: EU Action

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions his Department has had with EU partners on developing an EU supergrid to enhance the development of renewable energy in the last 12 months. [263055]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) is in regular contact with the European Commission and other EU member states on all aspects of energy policy, including on development of EU energy networks.

Part of the idea behind an EU supergrid envisages the linking of renewable generation at the periphery of Europe, such as offshore wind projects in the North sea or solar projects in the Sahara desert, with the joint objective of helping EU member states meet their climate change and energy goals while promoting economic development and efficient energy use in the relevant energy producing countries.

DECC officials are in regular discussion with the European Commission and the EU Co-ordinator on the concept of a North sea offshore grid to link offshore wind generation in the North and Baltic seas, in order to share our experience of offshore transmission and ensure that UK objectives are met in any developments on this project. DECC officials are also engaging with the Commission and other EU member states on proposals to develop solar and wind power in desert regions in North Africa and the Middle East as a means to provide clean energy for these countries and for Europe. We are in contact with the French Government which has been seeking to give impetus to these ideas.

The idea of a European supergrid could help member states meet climate change and energy goals. However, these types of project involve many difficult cross-border and jurisdictional issues, which would require significant effort and time to resolve, and the costs relative to other options to secure energy supplies seem likely to be high.

Renewable Energy: Expenditure

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department and its predecessors spent on *(a)* wind, *(b)* tidal, *(c)* solar and *(d)* geothermal power development in the last five years. [259497]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: DTI's renewable energy R and D expenditure on these areas before the activity transferred to the Technology Strategy Board in 2007 was.

£000

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
(a) Wind	1,395	1,460	1,137	845
(b) Wave and tidal	5,019	1,235	1,655	2,258
(c) Solar/PV	3,131	1,970	1,782	1,128

DIUS (and, before the creation of DIUS, DTI) provides funding for the Research Councils. The Research Councils' spend on these areas was.

£000

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
(a) Wind	482	243	125	1,074	768
(b) Wave and tidal	830	995	1,026	633	1,015
(c) Solar[1]	1,453	1,690	1,764	1,473	2,046
(c) Photovoltaics	2,381	2,676	2,531	2,308	6,472
(d) Geothermal	73	79	106	153	348

[1] Research relating to "light harvesting" in biological process/organisms.

(a) Wind

DTI/BERR/DECC's spend on the Offshore Wind Capital Grants programme was.

Financial year	Spend (£ million)
2004-05	15.00
2005-06	23.11
2006-07	25.89
2007-08	12.75
2008-09	07.62

DTI/BERR's spend on the Wind Aviation Interests was.

Financial year	Spend (£000)
2005	352
2006	178
2007	66

(b) Tidal

DTI/BERR/DECC's spend on Wave and Tidal through the Marine Renewables Deployment Fund (capital) was.

Financial year	Spend (£ million)
2006-07	0.9
2007-08	0.7
2008-09	0.7

In 2008 BERR also spent £25,000 on Wave and Tidal research.

(c) Solar

Between 2001 and 2006 DTI spent £10 million on large scale and domestic Photovoltaic Field Trials. The amount of money spent is not available on a per year basis.

DTI/BERR's spend on the Major PV Demonstration programme with a budget of £31 million paid £26 million to projects.

Financial year	£ million
2002-03	4.3
2003-04	6.7
2004-05	5.7
2005-06	7.0
2006-07	2.4

DTI/BERR's spend on solar thermal under the Clear Skies scheme was.

Year paid	£000
2003	11
2004	164
2005	991
2006	511
2007	389

DTI/BERR/DECC's spend on solar under the Low Carbon Buildings programme Phase 1 scheme to end-February 2009 was.

	Solar hot water	£000 Photovoltaics
2006-07	560	1,916
2007-08	686	2,379
2008-09[1]	1,083	1,813
Total	2,329	6,108

[1] To end February.

DTI/BERR/DECC's spend on solar under the Low Carbon Buildings programme Phase 2 scheme to end-February 2009 was.

	Solar thermal	£000 PV
2007	14	419
2008	299	4,926
2009	36	650

(d) Geothermal

DTI/BERR spend on ground source heat pumps under the Clear Skies scheme was.

Year paid	£000
2003	0
2004	24
2005	323
2006	384
2007	68

The answer excludes details of expenditure that could not be obtained without incurring disproportionate costs.

Renewable Energy: Job Creation

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many UK manufacturing jobs were created in the renewable energy industry in each year for which figures are available; and what estimate he has made of the number of such jobs to be created in the next 12 months. [263165]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: DECC does not collate employment information for this sector on a year by year basis.

However, a report by Douglas-Westwood Ltd., commissioned by BERR and published alongside the renewable energy strategy consultation document in June 2008, estimated that renewable energy supported between 16,000 and 26,000 jobs in the UK at that time.

The report can be downloaded at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file46792.pdf

Sellafield

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he has taken in response to the warning issued by the European Commission to the British Nuclear Group Sellafield under Article 83 of the Euratom Treaty in respect of accounting and reporting procedures in place at the Thorp plant; and if he will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* the Commission's warning and *(b)* the UK's response. [263398]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: A summary of the Commission Decision of 15 February 2006 was published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 19 September 2006, and can be found at:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2006:255:0005:0006:EN:PDF

The Decision was addressed to British Nuclear Group Sellafield Ltd. (now Sellafield Ltd.), who lodged an appeal at the Court of First Instance on 25 April 2006, published in the Official Journal on 1 July 2007 at:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2006:154:0019:0020:EN:PDF

Copies of the Decision and the appeal have been placed in the Libraries of the House. We have been working closely to support positive and constructive engagement between Sellafield Ltd. and the European Commission safeguards inspectorate to resolve the safeguards issues raised in the Decision, but the exchanges involved are in respect of the legal proceedings arising from Sellafield Ltd.'s appeal of the Decision and remain confidential to the parties involved.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 19 March 2009

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Historic Churches

8. **John Barrett:** To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what recent discussions the Church Commissioners have had with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on funding for the preservation of historic churches. [264467]

Sir Stuart Bell: Church of England staff have been meeting regularly with officials from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. The focus of these discussions continues to be around identifying national, regional and local sources of funding and support for faith groups which will enable them to adapt their buildings for community use and build on their capacity to engage at local and regional level.

A joint paper is being produced by the Treasury, the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Office of the Third Sector, DCMS and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in conjunction with representatives of the Church of England. Bringing together all these Government Departments illustrates the huge potential that church buildings have to help Government meet their agenda.

Water Charges: Churches

Dr. Pugh: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what recent discussions the Church Commissioners have had with Government Ministers on levels of utility charges on places of worship. [264464]

Sir Stuart Bell: Church representatives are continuing to engage not only with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs but also with a number of Government officials and representatives of Ofwat about the grossly unfair water charging regime. The Archbishops Council takes the lead in these discussions but it does so with the Church Commissioners' support.

TREASURY

Banks: Finance

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to the public purse was of the *(a)* legal and *(b)* accountancy advice received by his Department in respect of (i) the break-up of Bradford and Bingley, (ii) the merger and recapitalisation of Lloyds TSB and HBOS and (iii) the recapitalisation of the Royal Bank of Scotland. [261589]

Ian Pearson: The Treasury has received legal advice from Government and commercial lawyers, and financial advice from accountancy firms and investment banks.

The Treasury's external adviser fees will be shared between the banks participating in the Government's recapitalisation. Those costs related to the nationalisation of Bradford and Bingley will be fully recovered from Bradford and Bingley.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the relationship between his Department, UK Financial Investments Ltd and Jerseyco referred to in the bank recapitalisation agreements is; and who regulates Jerseyco's activities in the UK. [264110]

Ian Pearson: Neither HM Treasury nor UKFI has any contractual arrangement or other direct relationship with the companies referred to as "Jerseyco" in the recapitalisation agreements.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with banks in receipt of recapitalisation or asset-based loan guarantees on the future use of *(a)* direct tax avoidance practices and *(b)* special purpose vehicles by such banks. [264458]

Ian Pearson: We cannot comment on affairs of individual taxpayers because of taxpayer confidentiality. We vigorously challenge tax avoidance—through the courts if necessary—including where the taxpayer is partly owned by the Government and we expect banks to fully comply with their tax obligations. That is why the Chancellor of the Exchequer has asked HM Revenue and Customs to publish shortly a draft code of practice on taxation for the banking sector—so that banks will comply not just with the letter but the spirit of the law.

Further information about the undertakings made by participating banks will be available when the detailed terms of entry into the Asset Protection Scheme have been finalised.

Banks: Iceland

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will request the Financial Services Authority to undertake an investigation of the appropriateness of advice given to local authorities and police authorities by Butlers in relation to the depositing of funds in Icelandic banks. [261638]

Ian Pearson: Financial advisers are regulated by the Financial Services Authority (FSA), and it is for the FSA to determine whether or not any particular firm is meeting its regulatory obligations. Local authorities are responsible for their own investment decisions and guidance issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government requires them to produce an annual investment strategy which is approved by the full council.

Banks: Regulation

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will introduce legislation to disqualify from holding directorships or board memberships of UK-registered *(a)* banks and *(b)* companies all people who have been directors and non-executive board members of (i) Northern Rock, (ii) Bradford and Bingley, (iii) Royal Bank of Scotland and (iv) Halifax Bank of Scotland since 2005. [260181]

Ian Pearson: Provisions already exist in the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 to maintain the integrity of the business environment by providing for the Secretary of State to bring disqualification proceedings against directors and shadow directors whose conduct makes them unfit to be concerned in the management of a company.

Cash Dispensing

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many of the 600 free automated teller machines for low-income areas proposed in December 2006 are in operation in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Denbighshire and *(d)* Conwy county borough. [264593]

Ian Pearson: Further to the written statement I issued on 18 December 2008, 37 more free-to-use ATMs are in operation in the low-income target areas across the UK, bringing the total to 564. Of these 564 machines, 76 are located in Wales, two in Denbighshire and two in Conway council.

Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the costs incurred by his Department in *(a)* legal and *(b)* accountancy fees relating to (i) Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander and (ii) Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander (Isle of Man) in each of the last six months. [258317]

Ian Pearson: The figures in relation to Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander will be included in the Treasury annual resource accounts 2008-09 in due course.

Arrangements for depositors in banks in the Isle of Man, including Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander, Isle of Man, are a matter for the Government of the Isle of Man. The Treasury has not engaged external financial advisers in relation to Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander, Isle of Man.

Minimum Wage

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff there are in the national minimum wage regional compliance team in *(a)* Aberdeen, *(b)* Belfast, *(c)* Birmingham, *(d)* Cambridge, *(e)* Cardiff, *(f)* East Kilbride, *(g)* Exeter, *(h)* Maidstone, *(i)* Teesside, *(j)* Portsmouth, *(k)* Romford, *(l)* Sheffield, *(m)* Ashton, *(n)* Shipley, *(o)* Wigan and *(p)* Leicester; how many staff he expects there to be in each such team in 2010; and how many cases each such team presented to employment tribunals on behalf of employees in (i) 2007 and (ii) 2008. [264273]

Mr. Timms: The following table contains the current number of staff in post in each national minimum wage (NMW) compliance team. Projected staffing figures for 2010 are not available, due to HM Revenue and Customs' current review of its business operations and practices.

NMW compliance officers do not present cases to employment tribunals on behalf of low-paid workers. Where an employer appeals against the issue of an enforcement notice by a compliance officer, a compliance officer may appear as a respondent.

Team	*Staff in post*
Aberdeen	4
Ashton	8
Belfast	8
Birmingham	8
Cambridge	8
Cardiff	8
East Kilbride	7
Exeter	8
Leicester	7
Maidstone	7
Oxford	4
Portsmouth	6
Romford	9
Sheffield	7
Shipley	8
Teesside	10
Wigan	8
Total	125

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of the estimated £29 million recovered on behalf of employees who were underpaid or not paid the minimum wage under the National Minimum Wage Regulations 1999 had been repaid to such employees on the latest date for which figures are available. [264357]

Mr. Timms: Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs does not keep separate statistics on the amount of arrears paid or not paid to workers.

Public Expenditure

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what money was spent in each Department from the Modernisation Fund in *(a)* each of the last four years and *(b)* 2008-09 to date. [244470]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 16 December 2008]:* The Modernisation Fund provides support to Departments to meet the transitional costs associated with releasing savings over the CSR period and embedding ongoing efficiencies over the longer-term.

The Modernisation Fund has been in operation since 2007-08. Amounts drawn down by Departments are shown in the following table and are also set out to Parliament in Supplementary Estimates.

All Departments are also expected to improve services and deliver improved value for money from within their spending review settlements.

£000

Department	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
HM Revenue and Customs	68,759	90,000
National Savings and Investments	—	1,102
Charity Commission	2,600	—
Ministry of Justice	70,000	—

Royal Bank of Scotland

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what meetings were held between Lord Myners and representatives of the Royal Bank of Scotland between 6 and 12 October 2008 inclusive; which officials of his Department took part in each meeting; and if he will place on his Departmental website agendas and minutes of each meeting. [261509]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the remarks made in the other place by the Financial Services Secretary to the Treasury (Lord Myners) in response to Lord Smith and Lord Howard on 2 March, *Official Report, House of Lords*, columns 585-86.

Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Tax Havens

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many legal notices requiring information on offshore bank accounts have been *(a)* served and *(b)* complied with in each of the last three years; and how many such accounts have been disclosed since the offshore disclosure facility was ended. [264247]

Ian Pearson: The cost involved in providing the information requested is disproportionate.

In regards to the specific Offshore Disclosure Facility (ODF), the facility was launched in April 2007 to deal with the detailed information we had obtained from a number of major banks on around 400,000 UK-based offshore account holders.

HMRC is pursuing those with offshore accounts who did not come forward under the arrangements or where there is a risk that the full amount has not been declared. It is also making inquiries where people appear to have undeclared liabilities but have not come forward.

TRANSPORT

Motor Vehicles: Testing

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost to the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) was of vehicle testing in each of the last five years; and how much VOSA received in fees for vehicle testing in each such year. [264730]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA)'s testing figures in the last five years are as follows:

		£000
Financial year	*Income*	*Cost*
2007-08	63,071.00	70,555.00
2006-07	61,695.00	62,149.00
2005-06	57,616.00	55,865.00
2004-05	51,594.00	50,190.00
2003-04	45,416.00	48,830.00

Transport: Costs

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the percentage change in real terms of the cost of travelling by *(a)* private car, *(b)* bus, *(c)* train and *(d)* aeroplane since (i) 1979 and (ii) 1997. [263617]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 13 March 2009]:* Between 1979 and 2008 the real cost of motoring declined by 17 per cent., bus and coach fares increased by 55 per cent. and rail fares increased by 49 per cent. in real terms.

Between 1997 and 2008 the real cost of motoring declined by 13 per cent., bus and coach fares increased by 17 per cent. and average rail fares increased by 7 per cent. in real terms.

The costs of travelling by air are not available from the retail prices index. However, the cost of the average UK one-way air fare, including taxes and charges, covering domestic and international flights fell by 49 per cent. between 1997 and 2006, the latest date for which figures are available.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departmental Public Relations

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* public relations and *(b)* media advisers his Department employed (i) in 1997 and (ii) on the most recent date for which figures are available. [264778]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department does not employ public relations or media advisers.

However, the Department employs press officers and communication officers. These are listed in the White Book, as well as civil servants working on media policy in line with the Department's remit.

Playing Fields: Private Sector

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of sports facilities owned by industrial concerns which have closed in the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [261438]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 6 March 2009]:* Sport England has advised that the Active People data indicate that four sports facilities owned by industrial concerns have closed in the last 10 years.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Motor Manufacturing

6. **Mr. Jim Cunningham:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps the Government is taking to assist the motor manufacturing industry and its associated businesses; and if he will make a statement. [264475]

Ian Pearson: We are in frequent dialogue with the automotive industry. The Automotive Assistance Programme (AAP) is now open for business and a seminar was held with industry and bank representatives on 11 March to explain the programme in detail. Following demand from the automotive sector for support under the "Train to Gain" scheme, the budget of £65 million has been increased substantially up to £100 million. Automotive firms are also eligible for wider help for business through the Enterprise Finance Guarantee, where appropriate, and Solutions for Business.

Small Businesses

7. **Alistair Burt:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has received on the provision of information to small businesses on his Department's initiatives to assist those businesses. [264476]

Mr. Thomas: Business Link is the primary information channel on my Department's support measures for small businesses including Real Help. It provides both an online and face-to-face service. Over 940,000 businesses or individuals in England were assisted in 2008. We have regular meetings with business organisations on these and other matters.

Royal Mail

8. **Mrs. Lait:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions his Department has had with the private sector on the future ownership and management of Royal Mail. [264478]

Mr. McFadden: The Department and our advisers have had discussions in recent weeks with a number of potential partners with experience of transforming a major business who are interested in entering into partnership with Royal Mail.

At this stage of the process, only the Dutch postal service TNT has made its interest public.

10. **Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he plans to take to enable Royal Mail to provide mail delivery services on the same basis as its competitors. [264480]

Mr. McFadden: Royal Mail is in a unique position in the postal services market. It is the only company able to deliver to every address in the country every day of the week—99 per cent. of all letters are delivered by Royal Mail.

That is why it is important to modernise Royal Mail rather than simply allow it to decline. The new Postal Services Bill makes it clear that the overriding duty of the regulator in respect of post is to secure the provision of a universal postal service.

Financial Assistance

9. **Mr. Baron:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent progress has been made in delivering financial assistance and loan guarantees to businesses. [264479]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to the hon. Member for Enfield, Southgate (Mr. Burrowes) earlier today.

Industrial Projects: Bank Loans

11. **Natascha Engel:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if his Department will expedite assistance to industrial projects which require bank loans of £50 million or more. [264481]

Ian Pearson: The Department provides support to industrial projects via its Grant for Business Investment scheme—only last week we announced a grant of up to £27 million for Jaguar Land Rover.

Low-Carbon Industrial Summit

12. **Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department plans to take to assist UK manufacturers to obtain orders as a result of the outcomes of the low-carbon industrial summit. [264482]

Ian Pearson: The Government set out their vision to make the UK the best place to locate and grow a low carbon business on 6 March. A programme of work is under way and we will publish a Low Carbon Industrial Strategy in the summer.

We are making sure the UK is a leader in the development and production of low carbon vehicles, that low carbon innovative companies are supported through the Technology Strategy Board, Carbon Trust, Energy Technologies Institute, universities and regional development agencies, and that we have a strong renewables and civil nuclear supply chain industry.

Businesses: West Midlands

15. **Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent progress has been made in the delivery of financial assistance and loan guarantees to businesses in the West Midlands. [264485]

Ian Pearson: The Advantage Transition Bridge Fund has approved loans of over £7 million to 42 businesses employing over 2,700 people and over £6 million in Selective Financial Investment was distributed in grants in the West Midlands in the last financial year.

On 11 March we announced that up to £27 million will be available to Jaguar Land Rover under the Grant for Business Investment Scheme to support the creation of a greener Land Rover model.

So far the Enterprise Finance Guarantee has recorded 81 eligible cases with a total value of £5.3 million in the West Midlands.

Consumer Protection: Bank Customers

16. **Andrew George:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department plans to take to improve consumer protection for customers of banks. [264486]

Mr. Thomas: A stronger regulatory regime for banks and greater protection for consumers is at heart of the Government's response to the global downturn.

We announced earlier this week a commitment to legislate to restrict unsolicited credit increases and the sending of unsolicited credit card cheques.

In the summer we will publish a White Paper on modernised consumer rights law that will give consumers a fairer deal.

Business Finance

17. **Mr. Laurence Robertson:** To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had with business organisations on the availability of finance for businesses; and if he will make a statement. [264487]

Ian Pearson: The Department is in regular contact with business organisations.

In particular, the Small Business Forum and the Small Business Finance Forum meet frequently and discuss a range of issues affecting businesses throughout the United Kingdom, including access to finance. Membership of each includes the CBI, IoD, BCC, FSB and FPB. Additionally, Regional Ministers host regular economic councils to ensure that the issues and concerns of each region are heard and acted upon where appropriate.

Redundancy Payments

Mr. Bone: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will bring forward proposals to enable the Redundancy Payments Office to pay statutory redundancy payments to workers in circumstances where companies which continue to trade are unable to make such payments. [264483]

Mr. McFadden: There are already statutory provisions in place that enable the RPO to pay employees who have obtained a tribunal award for redundancy if the employer fails to pay. The RPO also has discretion to offer financial assistance to employers who are unable to meet the lump sum redundancy payment at once without jeopardising other jobs, without the need for a tribunal award, when approached by an employer, employee or employment tribunal.

Construction

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent assessment he has made of the state of the construction industry. [264472]

Ian Pearson: Overall, industry output was 0.4 per cent. down in 2008 compared with 2007. Orders however fell by 19 per cent. compared with 2007. Private new housing orders fell by 43 per cent. and private commercial orders fell by 28 per cent. However public non-housing orders rose by 26 per cent. (education, health and the Olympics featuring strongly) and infrastructure rose by 17 per cent.

Government continue their frequent discussions with the construction industry on the key issues the sector is facing. As the figures above indicate, public sector spending on construction is highly important.

Debts

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent estimate he has made of the number of individuals with debt management plans. [263495]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 13 March 2009]:* Because a debt management plan (DMP) is an informal agreement between a debtor and his creditors consequently there is no official record of their numbers. There is a multiplicity of both public and private sector providers in this area, but in view of the scarcity of information available, no attempt has been made to estimate numbers.

The Consumer Credit Counselling Service, the biggest provider of DMPs in the third sector, set up 12,500 DMPs in the first six months of 2008 and are due to publish their full 2008 figures later this month.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much has been claimed in reimbursable expenses by special advisers in his Department in 2008-09 to date. [260349]

Mr. McFadden: Costs incurred on reimbursable expenses in 2008-09, will be available only when the Department's resource accounts are fully audited and laid before Parliament. This is expected to be before the 2009 summer recess.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Vara: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many public consultations his Department has conducted in the last 12 months; how long each consultation was open for; how many responses were received in each case; and what the cost of conducting each consultation was. [259571]

Mr. McFadden: The number of public consultations conducted between February 2008 and January 2009 was 36. This includes those relating to the energy sector up to 3 October when the Department of Energy and Climate Change was formed and responsibility for energy issues was transferred to that Department. Consultations were open for at least 12 weeks, in line with the code of practice, except in a small number of cases where ministerial approval was gained for a shorter period. The number of responses received ranged from zero to several hundred. Providing the costs of conducting the consultations could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Scientists

Ian Stewart: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his Department's budget for scientific advice and research is in 2008-09; for what purposes the equivalent budget for 2007-08 was used; and how many people employed in his Department have a science or engineering degree. [260734]

Mr. McFadden: This Department does not have a specific budget for scientific research. It does have a Chief Scientific Adviser and an Assistant Chief Scientific Adviser with secretarial support. The BERR budget for this unit is £200,000 in 2008-09. The unit did not exist prior to 1 April 2008.

This Department does not keep a separate record of people it employs with a science or engineering degree and such information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Manufacturing Industries: Government Assistance

Andrew Miller: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to support the British manufacturing industry during the economic downturn; and if he will make a statement. [264488]

Ian Pearson: The Government have acted to help industry through the current economic downturn, by boosting capital and liquidity in the market. In addition, the Government have set up a £2.3 billion Automotive Assistance Programme that is specifically aimed at supporting the automotive sector, and its supply chain.

We are specifically supporting manufacturing with measures such as the Manufacturing Advisory Service (MAS), which since April 2008 has helped nearly 6,000 companies achieve cost savings and increased business worth over £200 million. The recent Manufacturing Strategy builds strongly on this, with £150 million of support for UK manufacturing, helping industry to: seize the opportunities of the low carbon economy; significantly increase apprenticeships; and take advantage of new markets in the global economy.

Post Offices: Closures

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many post office branches have closed in each *(a)* constituency, *(b)* local authority area and *(c)* region (i) since 1997 and (ii) under the Network Change programme to date. [262695]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Redundancy

Mr. Doran: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will bring forward legislative proposals to govern the practice of compulsory redundancy. [261814]

Mr. McFadden: We have no plans at present to change the arrangements in relation to compulsory redundancy. The law provides clear rights and responsibilities for both employers and employees with regard to information and consultation, notice periods and statutory redundancy payments.

Royal Mail: Pensions

Geraldine Smith: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the estimated saving to Royal Mail of suspending employer contributions to the Post Office Staff Superannuation Scheme between 1 April 1990 and 1 April 2003 was, expressed in 2008-09 prices. [263664]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 13 March 2009]:* There is no single answer for the possible accumulated current value of the suspended contributions as it would involve the need to make complex assumptions over the period since 1990, based on decisions taken by a number of interested parties. The fund was judged to be in surplus in 2001.

Union Modernisation Fund

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1700W, on the union modernisation fund, whether his Department's officials made any informal minutes or notes of the meeting. [263223]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 12 March 2009]:* Officials, acting in their capacity as the secretariat to the board and in accordance with a decision of the board, kept a record of the decisions taken at the UMF Supervisory Board meetings.

Video Games: Sales

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps the Government plan to take to ensure age restrictions on purchasing video games are adhered to for online purchases. [260805]

Ms. McFadden: The needs and rights of children are central and integral to the Government and they have placed the safety of children and young people at the heart of their policies.

It is illegal to sell or supply 18 rated video games to people under age through online retailers. This falls under the remit of trading standards officers. In the Byron review action plan, the Government committed to working with trading standards on monitoring underage game sales and this work is ongoing.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Air Pollution: Greater London

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on how many days air pollution recorded on Neasden Lane, NW10, exceeded *(a)* moderate, *(b)* high and *(c)* very high levels in the last 12 months; and what level of such pollution poses a risk to public health. [264021]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The monitoring site at Neasden Lane is the responsibility of the local authority and is part of the London Air Quality Network (LAQN). The

LAQN is facilitated by the Association of London Government on behalf of the 33 London Boroughs and is operated and managed by the Environmental Research Group (ERG) at Kings College London. Air quality information from the monitoring site at Neasden Lane, including historical data, can be found at:

http://www.londonair.org.uk/london/asp/default.asp?la_id=&show=bulletins+&width=1280

The UK air quality strategy sets air quality objectives for the protection of human health. These objectives are reflected in the Air Quality (England) Regulations 2002 and similar regulations for devolved administrations. All local authorities are required to work towards these objectives. EU legislation sets similar limit values for air pollutants, with which the UK must comply.

For PM_{10} (small particles) the limits are:

50 micrograms/m^3 daily mean not to be exceeded more than 35 days a calendar year

An annual mean concentration of 40 micrograms/m^3

For nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) the limits are:

1 hour mean concentration of 200 micrograms/m^3 not to be exceeded more than 18 times a year

An annual mean concentration of 40 micrograms/m^3

These are based on World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines. Health effects of air pollutants are described in detail in the (draft) COMEAP (Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollution) report "Long-Term Exposure to Air Pollution: Effect on Mortality" at:

http://www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/comeap/statementsreports/longtermeffectsmort2007.htm

Departmental Data Protection

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what IT security strategy his Department has in place; what steps are being taken to ensure the policy is being followed; what policy is in place on the use of encryption when data are sent externally; and what sanctions are in place for use should the policy not be followed. [259005]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 26 February 2009]*: Information is a key asset to Government and its correct handling is vital to the delivery of public services and to the integrity of HMG. The Security Policy Framework, the Data Handling Report and the National Information Assurance strategy produced by the Cabinet Office provide a strategic framework for protecting information that Government handle and put in place a set of mandatory measures to which Departments must adhere.

DEFRA's strategy is to implement all mandatory measures and achieve compliance with the new measures as appropriate for the Department's business purposes.

Guidance to staff is regularly updated and compliance is checked by line managers, information asset owners and internal audit as appropriate.

Secure procedures are in place for transferring protectively marked material outside of the Department.

Depending upon the circumstances, a range of sanctions are available including disciplinary or administrative action, and in extreme or persistent cases, termination of employment/services and, if appropriate, criminal proceedings.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will publish a copy of his Department's website accessibility plan. [257240]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA intends to comply with Level Double-A of the W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines by December 2009.

Contact details for obtaining a copy of our website accessibility policy are available on our website at:

www.defra.gov.uk/accessibility

I have asked officials responsible for the accessibility policy to send a copy to the hon. Gentleman.

Departmental Lost Property

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what property has been lost or stolen from his Department in the last 12 months; and what the estimated cost was of replacement of such property. [263112]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Items of DEFRA property lost or stolen are all recorded as 'losses'. The following table shows losses with an estimated value (at the time of loss) of over £50. Figures are for 2008-09 to date.

Description	*Number*	*Value (£)*
Blackberrys	13	—
Cameras	6	—
CD/DVD writers	1	—
Docking stations	2	—
Hard drives	5	—
Laptops	66	—
Mobile phones	2	—
Projectors	8	—
Spider phone	6	—
Wacom Bamboo A5 pen and tablet	1	—
Total	110	67,439

IT services were outsourced to IBM in October 2004 and all IT equipment then became the property of the new service provider.

During 2008-09, DEFRA began a programme of hardware and system upgrades which is now almost complete, including the roll-out of encrypted laptops which provides greater security of Government data assets. There have been no reported instances of protectively marked or personal data being lost in connection with these laptop losses.

Floods: Wiltshire

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce flood risk in North Wiltshire constituency. [264199]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Environment Agency is working closely with the North Wiltshire Flood Group (a multi-agency working group) to address all forms of flooding.

The Environment Agency is undertaking a study to look at the current standard of defence protection provided by existing defences on the Upper Avon in North Wiltshire. A pre-feasibility study has been carried out in Dauntsey to address local flooding and the Environment Agency is working with the Highways Agency and the local authority to progress the recommendations made.

The Environment Agency continues to inspect all its flood defence assets to ensure maintenance needs are identified and undertaken. The Environment Agency is continuously looking at new technology to improve the flood warning system and at Dauntsey, a more tailored localised service is now in place.

Marine Animals: Biodiversity

Ms Angela C. Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance his Department has issued on the application of the general duty to conserve biodiversity in section 40(1) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 to *(a)* existing public authorities carrying out functions in the marine area, *(b)* the Marine Management Organisation and other new marine public authorities proposed in the Marine and Coastal Access Bill, *(c)* the new regimes proposed in the Marine and Coastal Access Bill and *(d)* the Infrastructure Planning Commission when licensing marine projects. [263639]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The duty in section 40(1) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 requires every public authority, when exercising its functions, to have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity. The duty applies to public authorities in England and Wales, wherever they are carrying out their functions, including in the marine area.

The duty applies to existing public authorities, as defined in section 40(4) of the Act, and applies to any new public authorities which are created in England and Wales. The duty will therefore apply to the Infrastructure Planning Commission, and, subject to passage of the Marine and Coastal Access Bill, will apply to the Marine Management Organisation and to Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities. Existing public authorities in England and Wales, which it is proposed should carry out functions under the Bill, are already subject to the biodiversity duty.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Anti-Semitism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what reports he has received on levels of anti-Semitism in Northern Ireland since December 2008; and if he will make a statement. [263240]

Paul Goggins: The Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister is responsible for matters relating to equality and community relations, including issues surrounding anti-Semitism.

I am advised that the Police Service of Northern Ireland record crimes or incidents that have a religious motivation, however these are not routinely broken down into different faiths. The Police Service of Northern Ireland have advised me that there have been five such crimes or incidents since December 2008, including at least one of an anti-Semitic nature.

Crime: Computers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were convicted of internet-related offences in Northern Ireland in the last 12 months. [254935]

Paul Goggins: There are no specific offences relating to the internet. We are, therefore, unable to separate internet offences from other non-internet offences that relates to the same or similar crimes.

Departmental Rail Travel

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the cost of travel by train by staff in his Department was in each year since 1997. [261205]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) is unable to provide this information in the format requested. However, the following table provides details of the Department's invoiced expenditure for travel by train, excluding Agencies and Executive non-departmental public bodies, since the 2001-02 financial year when an expenditure code for train costs was created:

Financial Year	*Expenditure (£)*
2007-08	60,599
2006-07	92,420
2005-06	74,788
2004-05	36,458
2003-04	60,775
2002-03	21,040
2001-02	31,043

The expenditure figures shown in this table include invoiced travel by all employees of the Department.

Train fares can also be reimbursed for staff on official business through travel and subsistence claims. These are posted to the finance system as miscellaneous travel expenses but the isolation of staff costs for train travel would involve a manual investigation of payment vouchers and travel and subsistence claims which could be carried out only at disproportionate cost.

The Department advises that, before any business related journey is made, each member of staff should take into account the most cost effective means of transport, for example mileage costs and car parking. The Northern Ireland Office keeps the cost of travel on official business under regular review.

Veterans Day: Northern Ireland

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether he plans to hold events in Northern Ireland to mark Veterans Day on 27 June 2009. [264780]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I have been asked to reply.

A number of local communities within Northern Ireland have plans to hold Armed Forces Day (previously known as Veterans Day) events on or around 27 June 2009 including Carrickfergus, Ballymena and Bangor. The Ministry of Defence (Armed Forces Day Project Team) will be providing organisers of these events with financial assistance in the form of a grant to support their events where these meet the MOD's requirements for promoting the day.

JUSTICE

Community Justice Centres

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what percentage of defendants attending Salford Community Justice Centre have *(a)* re-offended and *(b)* complied with their sentence since the centre opened; [262559]

(2) what percentage of defendants attending the Community Justice Centre in North Liverpool have *(a)* re-offended and *(b)* complied with their sentence since the centre opened; [262560]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effects of the pilot Community Justice Centre in Liverpool and the Salford Community Justice initiative on sentencing; [262561]

(4) what assessment he has made of the effects of the pilot Community Justice Centre in Liverpool and the Salford Community Justice initiative had on *(a)* public perceptions of the criminal justice system and *(b)* the re-offending rate; [262562]

(5) what the re-offending rates have been from the community court schemes in *(a)* Salford and *(b)* Liverpool; [262649]

(6) what the attendance rate by the accused *(a)* at court in England and Wales and *(b)* at each individual community justice court was for the most recent period for which information is available; [262650]

(7) how many qualitative evaluation reports of *(a)* the North Liverpool Community Justice Centre and *(b)* Salford Community Justice Centre he has received; [262651]

(8) where each of the community justice courts in England and Wales is located. [262652]

Mr. Straw: The latest adult reoffending statistics for England and Wales, 'Reoffending of adults: results from the 2006 cohort', were published on 4 September 2008. These indicate that there has been significant success in reducing reoffending. Between 2000 and 2006 the number of offences committed by offenders commencing court orders under probation supervision has fallen 23.4 per cent. from 158.8 to 121.7 offences per 100 offenders.

Reoffending data for North Liverpool and Salford are not yet available due to the need for a large number of sentenced offenders (where enough time has elapsed since the sentence was given to measure reoffending) and time to collect the data. Data on the compliance with all sentences for the Salford Community Justice Initiative are not available for similar reasons.

Data on compliance with sentences for the North Liverpool Community Justice Centre are not available for similar reasons. However, anecdotal information published in an evaluation of the key components of the centre, published in October 2007, reported that staff at the centre perceived that the increase in support and the offenders' enhanced sense of accountability had improved compliance.

To date no assessment has been made of the effects of the Community Justice Centre in North Liverpool and the Salford Community Justice initiative on sentencing.

Evidence of public perceptions of the Criminal Justice System (CJS) in North Liverpool was published in October 2007 as part of a survey of local residents over the period June 2005 to January 2007. This showed that although confidence in the CJS had decreased, it had not dropped as sharply as confidence in the CJS recorded by the British Crime Survey for Merseyside as a whole over the same period. This suggests that the centre had helped to increase confidence locally so that the decline was not as large as it was in other areas. There has been no assessment of the effects of the Salford Community Justice initiative on public perceptions of the CJS.

The Criminal Statistics Annual Report published by the Ministry of Justice for 2007, gives the percentage of defendants bailed to attend magistrates' courts, who then failed to appear as 11 per cent. Attendance rates data are not available for the North Liverpool and Salford community justice projects.

The Ministry of Justice published three evaluation reports in October 2007. These were a qualitative evaluation of the key components of North Liverpool, a qualitative evaluation of the implementation of the Salford project, and the results of a survey, carried out in three waves over time, of the perception of local residents in North Liverpool. There are no evaluations or assessments of the 11 newer projects.

The 13 community justice courts in England and Wales are located at Birmingham, Bradford, Plymouth, Hull, Leicester, Merthyr Tydfil, Middlesbrough (Teesside Magistrates' Court), Nottingham, North Liverpool, Salford, and three locations in London, Haringey, Newham (Stratford Magistrates' Court) and Wandsworth (South Western Magistrates' Court).

Magistrates' Courts: Northern Ireland

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the running costs for *(a)* Bangor and *(b)* Limavady Magistrates' Court have been in each of the last five years. [264187]

Bridget Prentice: The running costs for *(a)* Bangor and *(b)* Limavady magistrates court in each of the last five years are shown in the following table.

£

	Year ended 3 March				
Location	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Bangor	107,105	126,545	117,547	130,306	125,469
Limavady	57,446	88,299	74,959	82,968	58,831

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the costs of Magherafelt Magistrates' Court were in each of the last five years. [264418]

Bridget Prentice: The running costs for Magherafelt magistrates court in each of the last five years are shown in the following table.

Magherafelt

Year ended 31 March	*£*
2004	87,423
2005	85,093
2006	107,362
2007	98,690
2008	109,071

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases have been brought before Larne Magistrates' Court in each of the last five years. [264419]

Bridget Prentice: The following table shows the court business (both criminal and civil) brought before Larne magistrates court in each of the last five years.

	Adult defendants	*Youth defendants*	*Civil applications*
2004	890	22	593
2005	926	20	635
2006	738	27	300
2007	754	45	160
2008[1]	619	40	122

[1] January to November. Provisional figures. Full year validated figures for 2008 are not yet available.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer of 28 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 502W, on departmental training, what the *(a)* Presentation and Public Speaking Skills and *(b)* Introduction Workshop for New Ministers course cost; and which Ministers attended each. [260391]

Ann McKechin: The two courses attended by Scotland Office Ministers in the period concerned were attended to enable Ministers to carry out their duties effectively in line with the Ministerial Code. The total cost of the courses was £2,316.85.

Identifying Ministers who undertake training would, or would be likely to, discourage participation in future training sessions, acting as a disincentive for Ministers to undertake formal professional development.

Departmental Public Appointments

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what information his Department holds on the number of persons appointed to executive positions in bodies for which his Department has responsibility in the last five years who previously had careers in the banking industry. [261224]

Ann McKechin: Information on the number of persons who previously had careers in the banking industry in the last five years and were appointed to executive positions in bodies for which my office has responsibility is not held centrally.

Performing Arts

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether his Department has engaged any *(a)* actors, *(b)* musicians and *(c)* other performers to support its initiatives over the last five years. [264031]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office has engaged musicians on two occasions in the past five years. No actors or other performers have been engaged.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Housing: Rents

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 6 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 71-72WS, on local authority rents, whether an impact assessment has been prepared in relation to the proposals. [263037]

Mr. Iain Wright: No impact assessment was made. Impact assessments are not routinely undertaken in setting the annual housing revenue account subsidy determination as the exercise operates on a notional basis.

Local authorities are responsible for setting their own rents, having regard to the HRA subsidy determination, local resources and affordability issues.

Departmental Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the answer of 26 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1511-12W, on redundancy, how many staff left her Department under staff exit schemes with a severance package worth *(a)* between £100,000 and £125,000, *(b)* between £125,001 and £150,000, *(c)* between £150,001 and £200,000, *(d)* between £200,001 and £250,000, *(e)* between £250,001 and £500,000, *(f)* between £500,001 and £1,000,000 and *(g)* over £1,000,000 in each year since 2005-06. [264304]

Mr. Khan: The following table shows further analysis of packages for the 18 packages of over £100,000:

Number undertaking exit schemes by compensation lump sum amounts over £100,000

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Total	4	7	7
£100,000 to £125,000	1	2	1
£125,001 to £150,000	—	1	1
£150,001 to £200,000	1	3	3
£200,001 to £250,000	2	1	2
£250,001 to £500,000	—	—	—
£500,001 to £1,000,000	—	—	—
Over £1,000,000	—	—	—

Disadvantaged: Sutton

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the indices of multiple deprivation data are for each lower layer super output area in the London borough of Sutton. [264089]

John Healey: I have placed in the Library of the House a table which lists the lower super output areas (LSOAs) for the London borough of Sutton, and provides the rank and score for each of the domains within the Indices of Deprivation. It also contains scores and ranks of the overall Index of Multiple Deprivation.

Home Information Packs

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department has spent on informing *(a)* buyers and *(b)* sellers of properties about home information packs in each year since their introduction was proposed. [264737]

Margaret Beckett: In relation to publicity expenditure on Home Information Packs (HIPs) prior to 7 February 2008, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 7 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1309W.

Since January 2009 the Department has conducted a campaign to meet its duty to inform industry and consumers of forthcoming changes to HIPs and also to promote Government information for those buying or selling homes. The Department's promotional spend has not been split by buyers and sellers and we do not hold information in the format requested. The spend has been broken down by industry and consumers (consumers including both buyers and sellers) and is as follows:

	£
Consumers	847,641
Industry	434,552
Total	1,282,193

The Department expects to spend a further £181,834.30 as part of this campaign before the end of the financial year 2008-09.

Homebuy Scheme

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Homebuy homes have been sold on the open market by their first owner in each region in England. [264070]

Margaret Beckett: Information on the number of homes subsequently sold on the open market by the first owner under the three HomeBuy products (New Build, Open Market and Social HomeBuy) is not held centrally.

Subsequent sales information will be collected for New Build HomeBuy (shared ownership) homes which have been allocated funding through the Homes and Communities Agency National Affordable Housing Programme from April 2008.

New Build and Social HomeBuy homes may only be sold on the open market if the landlord is unable to nominate the next purchaser from their waiting list. Where New Build and Social HomeBuy purchasers own 100 per cent. of their home, the landlord has the first option to buy back the home on resale.

Open Market HomeBuy purchasers select their property on the open market and may resell on the same basis but are required to repay their equity loan before doing so. If purchasers wish they may redeem their equity loan at any time when they can afford to do so and continue to live in the property.

Information on the total number of equity loan redemptions (both full and partial) and shared owners increasing their equity share in the last three years is set out in the table. Resales of the properties are not identified separately and redemptions are not broken down by region.

Number of open market HomeBuy equity loan redemptions

	Number
2005-06	1,265
2006-07	1,704
2007-08	1,678

Housing Revenue Accounts

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) which local authorities *(a)* are due to receive a negative housing revenue account subsidy in 2009-10 and *(b)* have received a negative housing revenue account subsidy in each of the last five years; what the level of each negative subsidy was; how many relevant dwellings there were in each authority; and if she will make a statement; [264640]

(2) which local authorities *(a)* are due to receive a housing revenue account subsidy in 2009-10 and *(b)* have received a housing revenue account subsidy in each of the last five years; what the level of each subsidy was; how many relevant dwellings there were in each authority; and if she will make a statement. [264641]

Margaret Beckett: Information on whether a local authority may be in either positive or negative Housing Revenue Account (HRA) subsidy in 2009-10 is not yet available.

The information requested for the last five years is available on the Department's website or in the Library of the House. However, for convenience separate tables showing which local authorities received negative HRA subsidy, and which received positive subsidy, including the levels of subsidy and each authority's housing stock for the years 2004-05 to 2008-09, have been placed in the Library of the House.

Housing: Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will take steps to accelerate the completion of private finance initiative housebuilding schemes. [263927]

Margaret Beckett: The Department, through its Central Private Finance Unit in association with the Homes and Communities Agency, is actively engaged in measures to help ensure the efficient and effective procurement of its Housing PFI programme and projects.

Steps taken by the Department include: transfer of Housing PFI delivery responsibilities from DCLG to the HCA; setting procurement target timescales; updating the Housing PFI Procurement Pack Guidance, currently under way; monitoring the progress of individual projects; and keeping in close contact with local authorities on projects, offering advice and support as required.

The Department is keeping the procurement of its Housing PFI projects under regular review.

Non-Domestic Rates: Small Businesses

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her most recent estimate is of the rate of take up of relief by small businesses under the small business rate relief scheme; and if she will make a statement. [264585]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 29 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 319W, to the hon. Member for Rutland and Melton (Alan Duncan).

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons the rate relief available under the small business rate relief scheme is not granted to qualifying businesses automatically; and if she will make a statement. [264586]

John Healey: Small Business Rate Relief can be granted to ratepayers who occupy only one business property. Without the application it would be very difficult for the local authority to establish whether a ratepayer occupies more than one property, which is a condition of entitlement to the relief, particularly if that property is located outside of the billing area in which relief is being claimed. Ratepayers certifying that they meet the given criteria then receive the relief.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of Child Support Agency cases are being managed manually. [264040]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 16 March 2009]:* The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Questions about child maintenance, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many and what proportion of Child Support Agency cases are being manually managed. [264040]

Figures relating to clerical cases are routinely published in Table 20 of the Child Support Agency's Quarterly Summary of Statistics; the latest version of which is available in the House of Commons Library, or online at:

http://www.childmaintenance.org/publications/statistics.html

The number of cases the Agency managed clerically at 31st December 2008 was 49,000, which represents less than 4% of the total caseload.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Council Tax Benefits

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners not in receipt of pension credit are *(a)* eligible for and *(b)* in receipt of council tax benefit. [261560]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 6 March 2009]:* The latest estimates of the numbers eligible for means-tested benefits in Great Britain, covering income support, pension credit, housing benefit, council tax benefit and jobseeker's allowance (income based) are published in the report 'Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2006-07', a copy of which is in the Library.

Estimates of the pensioner population who are not in receipt of pension credit but who are eligible for council tax benefit are not available.

The requested information about those in receipt of council tax benefit is in the table.

Great Britain

	Number
Total number of recipients of council tax benefit	5,079,080
Recipients of council tax benefit aged 60 and over and not in receipt of pension credit	444,880

Notes:
1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
4. Council tax benefit totals exclude any second adult rebate cases.
5. Administrative HB/CTB Information contains two age breakdowns (i) those under the age of 60 and (ii) those aged 60 and over. Therefore 'Pensioners' refers to recipients aged 60 or over.
6. Not all recipients of council tax benefit who are aged over 60 will be eligible for pension credit.

Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. caseload stock-count taken in August 2007.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* pensioners and *(b)* people of working age who are not eligible for council tax benefit live in households where no one is eligible to pay income tax. [264630]

Kitty Ussher: Analysis of the Family Resources Survey for 2006-07 suggests that 10 per cent. of pensioner families with a council tax liability but no entitlement to council tax benefit are in households where no one is liable to pay income tax.

For people of working age 3 per cent. of families with a council tax liability but no entitlement to council tax benefit are in households where no one is liable to pay income tax.

These estimates refer to Great Britain and are based on survey data and modelling so are subject to sample variation and to other forms of errors.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of applicants for council tax benefit whose application was successful in the latest period for which figures are available. [264631]

Kitty Ussher: We estimate that in 2007-08 67 per cent. of all new council tax benefit claims were successful.

Notes:

1. Not all local authorities return their quarterly clerical forms; Figures for any non-responding authorities have not been estimated.
2. Claim processing data are supplied to DWP by local authorities and are unaudited.

Source:

Quarterly Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Administration Data.

Mortgage Relief: Crosby

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1284-85W, on homelessness, what estimate he has made of the number of people in Crosby constituency who will receive support from the Support for Mortgage Interest Scheme in each year following its entry into force. [263001]

Kitty Ussher: The information is not available.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people registered as unemployed in *(a)* Cumbria and *(b)* Copeland constituency have received assistance with the cost of meeting mortgage interest repayments in the last six months. [263800]

Kitty Ussher: The information requested is not available.

Pension Credit

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make an estimate of the weekly pension credit entitlement to the nearest whole pound of an individual retiring at age 68 in *(a)* 2028, *(b)* 2038, *(c)* 2048 and *(d)* 2058 with a full basic state pension but no other pension saving. [261949]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In 2028, the state pension age will be 66, in 2038 it will be 67 and in 2048 and 2058 it will be 68.

The vast majority of individuals with a full basic state pension retiring at the state pension age will also accrue some additional pension.

A median earner in all these scenarios, retiring at the state pension age, would get around £160 per week in state pension (including additional pension), in real weekly earnings terms. This represents just over a third of the income they received during their working life. In each of these cases, they would be ineligible for pension credit.

Note:

The example given assumes a median earner, working from 25 years of age to state pension age with no other income from saving.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of pension credit applications were processed within *(a)* 15 days, *(b)* 20 days and *(c)* 30 days in each year since 2005. [263721]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We are unable to provide the level of detail requested. However, the following table details the average actual clearance times (AACT) for pension credit, each year since 2005, along with the percentage of total applications this represents.

The AACT is calculated by dividing the total number of working days taken to clear cases by the total number of cases cleared.

Pension credit clearance times

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*February YTD[1] 2008-09*
AACT[2] target (Days)	10	10	15	15
Total processed (Number)	427,748	334,501	280,097	269,119
Percentage processed within target	88	80	70	72
AACT (Days)	8.8	11.9	15.6	14.9

[1] YTD—Year to date.
[2] AACT—Actual average clearance time.

Source:

Pension Service Legacy System.

Pensioners: Lump Sum Payments

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the percentage of retirees who took a 25 per cent. tax-free lump sum from their pension fund on retirement in the latest period for which figures are available. [264777]

Ms Rosie Winterton: No information is available about the percentage of retirees taking a 25 per cent. tax free lump sum from their pension fund on retirement. For occupational schemes, it is a matter for the scheme to decide whether to offer a lump sum and, if so, how much it should be within the tax rules. For personal and stakeholder pensions, it is for the scheme member to decide whether to take a lump sum, and, if so, what proportion of the fund, subject to the 25 per cent. limit.

Pensioners: Social Security Benefits

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which groups of pensioners are not eligible to receive the *(a)* £60 bonus and *(b)* £10 Christmas bonus; and if he will make a statement. [263374]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 13 March 2009]:* Eligibility for both instalments of the Christmas bonus paid in winter 2008-09 is determined under the same rules. In order to receive the bonus in winter 2008-09, an individual must be entitled to one of a list of qualifying benefits, which includes the state pension and pension credit, in the week commencing 22 December 2008, and must be living in the UK or elsewhere in the EU or EEA. People who do not meet these qualifying conditions will not receive a Christmas bonus. The Social Security Administration Act 1992 provides that except in prescribed circumstances no person shall be entitled to a benefit unless he has made a claim for it.

Social Fund

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much of the funds lent under the *(a)* budgeting loans scheme and *(b)* crisis loan scheme were overdue for repayment in each of the last three financial years for which figures are available. [263820]

Kitty Ussher: Standard repayment terms for social fund loans are 104 weeks, and in exceptional circumstances this can be extended to 130 weeks. Recoveries can also be rescheduled for a number of reasons including a customer experiencing hardship or entering custody or care.

Amount overdue[1]

	Budgeting loans	*£ million Crisis loans*
2005-06	120	75
2006-07	133	89
2007-08	152	101

[1] Over two years old.

From 2006, as part of a policy designed to make the social fund more accessible to customers and make the repayment terms less onerous, the amounts people might borrow were increased by 50 per cent. and the repayment terms extended. Accordingly the amounts, lent and outstanding, grew as a consequence of these changes.

Around £8 billion in loans has been awarded since 1988, of which £900 million remains outstanding. Only £38 million (0.5 per cent.) has been written off to date and recoveries continue to be pursued beyond the 104 and 130 weeks date for both on and off benefit customers.

State Retirement Pension

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what mechanisms are in place to ensure that a state pensioner switching from monthly to weekly payments for the state pension receives the correct amount of pension. [263955]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Payments of state pension are routinely checked for accuracy. Currently a sample of approximately 1 per cent. of all payments are checked. The interim year to date accuracy figure for February 2009 is 97.09 per cent. A change in payment frequency, from monthly to weekly, does not trigger any specific additional check to ensure the right amount is being paid.

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people changed from receiving the state pension monthly to weekly using *(a)* the telephone and *(b)* other means in the most recent period for which figures are available. [263957]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not available.

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners changed from receiving their state pension monthly to weekly in the latest period for which figures are available. [263958]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not available.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to reply to question *(a)* 257376, on research into pensioner savings, *(b)* 257377, on pension credit calculation, *(c)* 257378, on pension credit income attribution, *(d)* 257379, on pension credit income attribution and *(e)* 257380, on pensioner income from savings, tabled on 11 February 2009. [261854]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 10 March 2009]:* The right hon. Gentleman's questions were answered as follows:

257377, 257378 and 257379 on 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 272W.

257376 and 257380 on 12 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 687W.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Death

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* combat and *(b)* non-combat deaths of personnel of each of the armed forces there were in (i) Iraq, (ii) Afghanistan, (iii) Germany and (iv) other overseas postings in (A) 2003 and (B) 2008. [264409]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table provides a breakdown by country of deaths to UK Service personnel:

Table: Combat and non-combat deaths to UK Service personnel, 2003 and 2008, numbers

	2003				*2008*[1]			
Country[2]	*All*	*Naval Service*	*Army*	*RAF*	*All*	*Naval Service*	*Army*	*RAF*
Iraq[3]								
Combat	40	14	24	2	2	0	1	1
Non-combat	12	1	9	2	2	0	2	0
Afghanistan								
Combat	0	0	0	0	50	16	32	2
Non-combat	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0

Table: Combat and non-combat deaths to UK Service personnel, 2003 and 2008, numbers

	2003				2008[1]			
Country[2]	*All*	*Naval Service*	*Army*	*RAF*	*All*	*Naval Service*	*Army*	*RAF*
Germany								
Combat	0	0	0	0	—	—	—	—
Non-combat	9	0	9	0	—	—	—	—
Other overseas								
Combat	0	0	0	0	—	—	—	—
Non-combat	11	3	8	0	—	—	—	—

[1] Data for 2008 are not available, other than for Iraq and Afghanistan, until 31 March 2009.
[2] Country of death includes all personnel who died in that country regardless of their posting location.
[3] Two Service personnel (one Army, one RAF) died as a result of non-combat injuries after return to the UK; these have been included in the Iraq fatalities.

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel died in the UK as a result of *(a)* natural causes, *(b)* road traffic accidents, *(c)* suicide or self-inflicted causes and *(d)* other causes, including outstanding coroner's verdicts, in (i) 2003 and (ii) 2008. [264410]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table provides a breakdown by cause of death for UK regular service personnel.

Table: UK deaths by cause for UK regular armed forces personnel, 2003 and 2007, numbers

Cause of death	*2003*	*2007*
All	107	93
Natural causes	34	31
Road traffic accidents	39	35
Suicide and open verdicts	23	7
Other causes[1]	11	20

[1] In addition, two service personnel died in the UK in 2007 as a result of injuries sustained as a result of hostile action in Iraq.

Of the deaths as a result of "other causes" in 2003, there is one death awaiting a coroner's inquest.

Of the deaths as a result of "other causes" in 2007, the latest year the Defence Analytical Services Agency has published cause of death information, there are seven deaths awaiting a coroner's inquest.

Armed Forces: Families

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent steps his Department has taken to assist service families. [263455]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 16 March 2009]*: Following the publication of the Nation's Commitment: Cross Government Support to our Armed Forces, their Families and Veterans, the MOD has continued to work with other Departments and the devolved administrations to deliver the commitments made. To address problems caused by mobility, the Government have increased recognition for service children in the Schools Admissions Code, ensured that families on NHS waiting lists will not be disadvantaged by service moves and given service spouses and partners early access to new deal to help them stay in employment.

A number of measures have been introduced to help service families access accommodation. Priority status for affordable housing schemes has been extended to service families in England, Scotland and Wales and to injured personnel for access to adapted affordable housing schemes; both remain for 12 months after leaving the service to help transition to civilian life. Service families applying for social housing on leaving the service will now be treated on a par with civilians in the area that they are serving.

The MOD and single services have increased by 20 per cent. the number of specialist welfare support staff over the last year, doubled the grant to help units support families of deployed personnel and provided better internet access and cheaper telephone minutes to deployed personnel.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent steps his Department has taken to assist service personnel seriously injured in the course of their duties. [263457]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 16 March 2009]*: The MOD takes the care and welfare of all injured service personnel very seriously, and we regularly assess ways in which we can improve the care we provide. During the last 12 months, we have completed a review of our rehabilitation services, which led to the announcement in May 2008 of an additional £24 million of funding, over the next four years, for the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court. The recent Healthcare Commission report into the Defence Medical Services also highlighted the exemplary level of operational healthcare and rehabilitation services.

We look forward to the relocation of the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine's clinical facilities from Selly Oak to the new NHS hospital being built for the University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust, which will start admitting patients in 2010 and will be Europe's largest and most modern critical care teaching hospital. Casualties from operations overseas will be treated in a modern military ward within the trauma and orthopaedics division of the trust, which will have special features for the exclusive use of military patients.

In line with our commitment in last year's Service Personnel Command Paper, we have doubled the upfront lump sum payment for the most serious injuries under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (AFCS). All recipients, according to the severity of their injuries, will have an uplift of at least 10 per cent. in upfront lump sum payments. We also intend to confer additional benefits to extend this effect to those who have already made claims under the scheme.

Armed Forces: Languages

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Farsi or Dari, *(b)* Arabic, *(c)* Urdu and *(d)* Pashto speaking British military personnel are serving in the British armed forces. [258873]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Information on the languages spoken by British military personnel is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Northern Ireland

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether there have been any changes to the number of military personnel on duty in Northern Ireland since the murders of the two soldiers at Massereene army base on 7 March 2009. [264734]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Following the attack outside Massereene barracks on 7 March the military element of base security in Northern Ireland has been enhanced. This has resulted in an increase in the number of military personnel on duty. I am withholding further details as its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Armed Forces: Pay

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* maximum, *(b)* minimum and *(c)* average cash allowance awarded to military staff in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan was in 2008. [263865]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 16 March 2009]:* During financial year 2007-08, the daily rate of operational allowance payable was £12.75 and is £13.08 for the current financial year. These rates apply equally to both Iraq and Afghanistan. It can be paid for a minimum of one day and the maximum payable is determined by the length of an operational tour. The average tour length is typically six months which would result in the payment of £2,380.

Details of the average operational allowance payable and a breakdown by operational theatre is not held centrally.

Civil Contingency Reaction Forces: Finance

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the Strategic Defence Review New Chapter of 2002, what the budget of the Civil Contingency Reaction Force is; what dedicated assets it has; and how many people are assigned to it. [263443]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are 13 Civil Contingency Reaction Forces (CCRF) drawn from the reserve forces of all three services. They can provide general duties support, which may be used to supplement the local civil emergency response capabilities. The core of a CCRF is formed around a TA infantry battalion (approximately 500 personnel) with its command structure, integral communications, logistic support and sub units. CCRFs are commanded by the regional brigade and may include volunteers from all arms of the Royal Naval Reserve, Royal Marines Reserve, the Territorial Army and the Royal Auxiliary Air Force.

The CCRFs are funded through the divisional budget in order to ensure the personnel are appropriately trained to carry out the roles required of them. They have no dedicated assets beyond the normal equipment held by their parent unit(s). If called to deploy, they would draw on the local divisional equipment pool for any additional equipment needed to suit the emergency requirement e.g. shelters, camp beds, tables, tarpaulins, sandbags, torches. They would be provided with the necessary resources to complete their task.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff in his Department *(a)* were disciplined and *(b)* had their employment terminated as a result of a poor sickness record in each of the last 12 months. [262248]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence does not discipline its employees for reasons of illness. It has a range of restoring efficiency procedures to restore and maintain acceptable levels of attendance and deal with staff whose excessive sickness absence and attendance record has become a cause for concern. Employment can be terminated where patterns of irregular attendance from staff become unacceptable, or where long-term sickness absence persists and there is no prospect of a regular return to work. Some staff may also qualify for ill health retirement in certain circumstances, under the terms of their pension scheme.

In the period March 2008 to February 2009, the MOD dismissed 59 civilian employees for unacceptable attendance, 29 for long-term sickness absence and granted ill health retirement to a further 157 employees. A monthly breakdown of this is as follows:

	2008									2009			
Reason	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sep*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Total*
Irregular	1	4	7	6	5	12	3	6	4	2	7	2	59
Long term	1	0	1	0	1	3	2	4	9	6	0	2	29
Ill health	10	17	15	14	18	12	11	14	20	7	13	6	157
Total	12	21	23	20	24	27	16	24	33	15	20	10	245

Departmental Furniture

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on the purchase of new chairs for its main building in the last two years; what the unit cost was of each type of chair purchased; and what best value criteria were applied. [263694]

Mr. Kevan Jones: In the last two years, the MOD has spent £17,687 on new chairs. I am withholding the unit costs of the individual items as disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice commercial interests. The terms of the contract require the contractor, Modus Services Ltd., to seek to obtain best value for money in its purchasing.

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been spent by his Department on new furniture in each year since 2001. [264197]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information requested is set out in the following table:

Financial year	*Amount (£ million)*
2002-03	21.1
2003-04	23.2
2004-05	28.0
2005-06	28.0
2006-07	23.8
2007-08	20.6
2008-09	13.5

The figures exclude PFI/PPP projects where the furniture is supplied by the industrial partner and forms a part of the overall project costs. This figure does include furniture for barracks, family accommodation and office furniture. Data are not held prior to financial year 2002-03. Data for financial year 2008-09 are to 31 January 2009 only.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on *(a)* alcohol and *(b)* food in each of the last five years. [261156]

Mr. Kevan Jones: A breakdown of the constituent elements of official entertainment is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

There are specific rules on the quantities of alcohol that may be provided at public expense and the circumstances in which alcohol may be served. The policy, rules and guidance on the provision of official entertainment are set out in chapter 45 of Joint Services Publication 462 (Financial Management Policy Manual), copies of which are available in the Library of the House and online under the MOD's Publication Scheme at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/FinanceandProcurementPublications/JSP462/Jsp462FinancialManagementPolicyManual.htm

HEALTH

Alcoholism

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people over the age of 50 years have been diagnosed with alcoholism in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last five years. [264372]

Dawn Primarolo: There are no data collected nationally on diagnoses of 'alcoholism'.

Contaminated Blood and Blood Products Inquiry

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration he has given to responding to the report from the Archer Inquiry into contaminated blood and blood products; if he will respond in full to its recommendations; and if he will make a statement. [264205]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department is carefully considering the recommendations made by Lord Archer. In recognition of the seriousness we attach to this issue, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health and I have met with Lord Archer to discuss his recommendations.

Departmental Public Consultation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what payments for *(a)* polling and *(b)* other services his Department has made to (i) Deborah Mattinson and (ii) Opinion Leader Research Limited since 31 December 2007; and if he will make a statement. [261055]

Mr. Bradshaw: No payments have been made by the Department to Deborah Mattinson. Since 31 December 2007, Opinion Leader Research Limited have been paid £230,871 in total by the Department for a range of work, contracts for which were awarded using standard procurement processes.

Diets

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the average daily calorific intake of *(a)* men and *(b)* women. [263582]

Dawn Primarolo: The most recent information available on the average daily total energy (calorie) intake of males and females is shown in the following table. This is taken from the National Diet and Nutrition Survey of adults aged 19 to 64 years, carried out in 2000-01.

Average daily total energy intake (kcal and MJ) by sex

	Energy intake			
	Male		*Female*	
Age (years)	*kcal/day*	*MJ/day*	*kcal/day*	*MJ/day*
19 to 64*	2,313	9.72	1,632	6.87

* *Source:*
Data from Henderson L, Gregory J, Irving K and Swan G. National Diet and Nutrition Survey: adults aged 19 to 64 years. Volume 2: Energy, protein, carbohydrate, fat and alcohol intake. The Stationery Office (London: 2003).

Drugs: Misuse

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the rate of admissions for drug-related incidents per 1,000 admissions for 18 to 21-year-olds was for *(a)* university hospitals, *(b)* other hospitals and *(c)* all hospitals in each of the last 10 years. [264151]

Dawn Primarolo: A table showing what data are held on the rate of admissions for drug-related incidents per 1,000 admissions, has been placed in the Library.

It is important to note that the diagnosis codes used to record hospital admission episodes do not distinguish between recreational, illicit or medicinal use of drugs.

Eating Disorders

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many 18 to 21 year-olds were admitted to each *(a)* hospital and *(b)* university hospital for eating disorders in each of the last 10 years; and what the rate of admissions for eating disorders per 1,000 admissions for 18 to 21 year-olds was for (i) university hospitals, (ii) other hospitals and (iii) all hospitals in each of the last 10 years. [264148]

Phil Hope: The following tables show what data is held on the number of 18 to 21 year-olds admitted into national health service care for eating disorders in the last 10 years.

Count and rate of admissions where there was a primary diagnosis of eating disorders per 1,000 admissions for 18 to 21 year-olds in each Strategic Health Authority (SHA) of treatment from 2005-06 to 1998-99, Activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector*

		2005-06		2004-05		2003-04		2002-03	
		Total admissions for eating disorders	*Rate per 1,000 admissions*	*Total admissions for eating disorders*	*Rate per 1,000 admissions*	*Total admissions for eating disorders*	*Rate per 1,000 admissions*	*Total admissions for eating disorders*	*Rate per 1,000 admissions*
	Total (England)	284	0.60	271	0.61	262	0.62	234	0.57
Q01	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA	12	0.60	9	0.49	10	0.54	15	0.86
Q02	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA	•	•	•	•	•	•	6	0.73
Q03	Essex SHA	7	0.80	•	•	•	•	•	•
Q04	North West London SHA	•	•	8	0.63	8	0.67	•	•
Q05	North Central London SHA	19	1.64	12	1.09	15	1.38	9	0.85
Q06	North East London SHA	—	—	—	—	—	—	•	•
Q07	South East London SHA	12	0.77	14	1.02	14	1.11	10	0.83
Q08	South West London SHA	29	3.01	17	1.86	15	1.83	12	1.54
Q09	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear SHA	•	•	11	0.69	12	0.79	6	0.39
Q10	County Durham and Tees Valley SHA	6	0.41	14	1.02	9	0.67	6	0.47
Q11	North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire SHA	7	0.47	•	•	•	•	•	•
Q12	West Yorkshire SHA	23	0.92	17	0.70	13	0.53	14	0.58
Q13	Cumbria and Lancashire SHA	•	•	•	•	7	0.40	11	0.63
Q14	Greater Manchester SHA	7	0.21	•	•	—	—	•	•
Q15	Cheshire and Merseyside SHA	11	0.39	8	0.31	13	0.54	10	0.42
Q16	Thames Valley SHA	21	1.27	13	0.81	20	1.38	13	0.98
Q17	Hampshire and Isle of Wight SHA	7	0.55	6	0.51	•	•	—	—
Q18	Kent and Medway SHA	•	•	•	•	•	•	11	1.05
Q19	Surrey and Sussex SHA	7	0.43	15	0.98	13	0.90	8	0.62
Q20	Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire SHA	16	0.78	13	0.66	17	0.91	17	0.99
Q21	South West Peninsula SHA	8	0.53	13	0.94	12	0.90	10	0.80
Q22	Dorset and Somerset SHA	28	3.14	25	2.95	17	2.12	20	2.48
Q23	South Yorkshire SHA	•	•	7	0.40	•	•	•	•
Q24	Trent SHA	•	•	11	0.52	10	0.48	9	0.44
Q25	Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland SHA	9	0.56	6	0.41	15	1.05	9	0.66
Q26	Shropshire and Staffordshire SHA	•	•	6	0.47	9	0.70	•	•

Count and rate of admissions where there was a primary diagnosis of eating disorders[a] per 1,000 admissions for 18 to 21 year-olds in each Strategic Health Authority (SHA) of treatment from 2005-06 to 1998-99, Activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

		2005-06		2004-05		2003-04		2002-03	
		Total admissions for eating disorders	Rate per 1,000 admissions	Total admissions for eating disorders	Rate per 1,000 admissions	Total admissions for eating disorders	Rate per 1,000 admissions	Total admissions for eating disorders	Rate per 1,000 admissions
Q27	Birmingham and The Black Country SHA	12	0.40	10	0.38	8	0.32	13	0.51
Q28	Coventry, Warwickshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire SHA	19	1.57	21	1.75	*	*	7	0.61
Y	Not known	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

		2001-02		2000-01		1999-00		1998-99	
		Total admissions for eating disorders	Rate per 1,000 admissions	Total admissions for eating disorders	Rate per 1,000 admissions	Total admissions for eating disorders	Rate per 1,000 admissions	Total admissions for eating disorders	Rate per 1,000 admissions
	Total (England)	253	0.63	224	0.54	280	0.68	212	0.53
Q01	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA	16	0.95	13	0.81	10	0.62	*	*
Q02	Bedfordshire And Hertfordshire SHA	*	*	*	*	*	*	—	—
Q03	Essex SHA	8	0.83	*	*	6	0.60	*	*
Q04	North West London SHA	10	1.11	*	*	8	0.75	—	—
Q05	North Central London SHA	*	*	14	1.25	*	*	*	*
Q06	North East London SHA	*	*	*	*	—	—	—	—
Q07	South East London SHA	10	0.91	11	0.98	16	1.33	—	—
Q08	South West London SHA	15	1.92	20	2.41	21	2.61	*	*
Q09	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear SHA	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Q10	County Durham And Tees Valley SHA	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Q11	North And East Yorkshire And Northern Lincolnshire SHA	9	0.66	6	0.45	*	*	—	—
Q12	West Yorkshire SHA	26	1.10	17	0.69	17	0.75	8	0.36
Q13	Cumbria And Lancashire SHA	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Q14	Greater Manchester SHA	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Q15	Cheshire and Merseyside SHA	10	0.42	8	0.38	18	0.85	8	0.42
Q16	Thames Valley SHA	11	0.78	11	0.76	6	0.45	6	0.50
Q17	Hampshire and Isle of Wight SHA	*	*	7	0.54	16	1.37	*	*
Q18	Kent and Medway SHA	*	*	8	0.77	12	1.33	*	*
Q19	Surrey and Sussex SHA	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Q20	Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire SHA	9	0.71	20	1.52	11	0.87	*	*
Q21	South West Peninsula SHA	12	0.97	*	*	*	*	9	0.77
Q22	Dorset and Somerset SHA	18	2.34	*	*	22	2.79	13	1.74
Q23	South Yorkshire SHA	*	*	6	0.57	*	*	*	*
Q24	Trent SHA	10	0.49	*	*	*	*	*	*
Q25	Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland SHA	*	*	*	*	7	0.52	*	*
Q26	Shropshire and Staffordshire SHA	*	*	*	*	8	0.68	*	*

		2001-02		2000-01		1999-00		1998-99	
		Total admissions for eating disorders	Rate per 1,000 admissions	Total admissions for eating disorders	Rate per 1,000 admissions	Total admissions for eating disorders	Rate per 1,000 admissions	Total admissions for eating disorders	Rate per 1,000 admissions
Q37	Birmingham and The Black Country SHA	23	1.00	11	0.52	11	0.52	10	0.53
Q38	Coventry, Warwickshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire SHA	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
V	Not Known	22	0.73	36	0.69	51	0.83	115	0.86

'...' = No data available

Notes:

Finished admission episodes

A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Admissions do not represent the number of inpatients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

Primary diagnosis

The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 20 (14 from 2002-03 to 2006-07 and 7 prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was admitted to hospital.

* Eating disorders are classified between the following ICD10 codes;

F50.0 Anorexia nervosa

F50.1 Atypical anorexia nervosa

F50.2 Bulimia nervosa

F50.3 Atypical bulimia nervosa

F50.4 Overeating associated with other psychological disturbances

F50.5 Vomiting associated with other psychological disturbances

F50.8 Other eating disorders

F50.9 Eating disorder, unspecified

F98.2 Feeding disorder of infancy and childhood

F98.3 Pica of infancy and childhood

Assessing growth through time

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. The quality and coverage of the data have improved over time. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.

Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity.

Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

Primary Care Trust / PCT/SHA data quality

PCT and SHA data were added to historic data years in the HES database using 2002-03 boundaries, as a one-off exercise in 2004. The quality of the data on PCT of treatment and SHA of treatment is poor in 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99, with over a third of all finished episodes having missing values in these years. Data quality of PCT of general practitioner (GP) practice and SHA of GP practice in 1997-98 and 1998-99 is also poor, with a high proportion missing values where practices changed or ceased to exist. There is less change in completeness of the residence-based fields over time, where the majority of unknown values are due to missing postcodes on birth episodes. Users of time series analysis including these years need to be aware of these issues in their interpretation of the data.

Data quality

HES are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and PCTs in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and works to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Unprocessed data

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in the data, i.e. the data are unprocessed.

Small numbers

To protect patient confidentiality, figures between one and five have been suppressed and replaced with "*" (an asterisk). Where it was possible to identify numbers from the total due to a single suppressed number in a row or column, an additional number (the next smallest) has been suppressed.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Count and rate of admissions where there was a primary diagnosis of eating disorders per 1000 admissions for 10 to 21 year-olds in each Strategic Health Authority of treatment from 2007-08 to 2006-07. Activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector*

		2007-08		2006-07	
		Total admissions for eating disorders	Rate per 1000 admissions	Total admissions for eating disorders	Rate per 1000 admissions
	Total (England)	250	0.51	313	0.65
Q30	North East Strategic Health Authority	10	0.32	20	0.63
Q31	North West Strategic Health Authority	20	0.24	23	0.28
Q32	Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority	44	0.74	38	0.66
Q33	East Midlands Strategic Health Authority	16	0.40	16	0.42
Q34	West Midlands Strategic Health Authority	16	0.27	29	0.51
Q35	East of England Strategic Health Authority	24	0.37	30	0.49
Q36	London Strategic Health Authority	26	0.37	71	1.05
Q37	South East Coast Strategic Health Authority	9	0.31	20	0.72

Count and rate of admissions where there was a primary diagnosis of eating disorder[a] per 1000 admissions for 18 to 21 year-olds in each Strategic Health Authority of treatment from 2007-08 to 2006-07. Activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

		2007-08		2006-07	
		Total admissions for eating disorders	*Rate per 1000 admissions*	*Total admissions for eating disorders*	*Rate per 1000 admissions*
Q38	South Central Strategic Health Authority	29	0.95	40	1.41
Q39	South West Strategic Health Authority	56	1.15	36	0.78

Notes:
Q00 North East SHA
Q09 Northumberland, Tyne and Wear
Q10 County Durham and Tees Valley
Q01 North West SHA
Q13 Cumbria and Lancashire
Q14 Greater Manchester
Q15 Cheshire and Merseyside
Q02 Yorkshire and Humber SHA
Q11 North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire
Q12 West Yorkshire
Q23 South Yorkshire
Q03 East Midlands SHA
Q24 Trent
Q25 Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland
Q04 West Midlands SHA
Q26 Shropshire and Staffordshire
Q27 Birmingham and the Black Country
Q28 West Midlands South
Q05 East of England SHA
Q01 Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire
Q02 Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire
Q06 London
Q04 North West London
Q05 North Central London
Q06 North East London
Q07 South East London
Q08 South West London
Q08 South East Coast SHA
Q16 Thames Valley
Q17 Hampshire and Isle of Wight
Q07 South Central SHA
Q18 Kent and Medway
Q19 Surrey and Sussex
Q09 South West SHA
Q20 Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire
Q21 South West Peninsula
Q22 Dorset and Somerset
The data do not include patients with overeating (ICD10 code F63.2 Polyphagia) that have not been formally diagnosed with a condition classified as a mental or behavioural disorder.

Fire Services: Vaccination

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 28 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 636W, on fire services: vaccination, whether he plans to review the practice of not distributing antiviral drugs to firefighters in the event of an influenza pandemic. [263500]

Dawn Primarolo: In the event of a pandemic, our policy is to provide treatment to all who need it, irrespective of the profession to which they belong. We are currently increasing our antiviral stockpile to ensure that there will be enough to treat up to 50 per cent. of the population in a pandemic, the reasonable worst case scenario of the number of people likely to exhibit symptoms of pandemic influenza. This stockpile is due to be in place by April 2009.

Hospital Beds

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many acute hospital beds there were per 1,000 of local populations in each health authority area in each of the last 10 years. [264215]

Mr. Bradshaw: The average daily number of available acute beds in wards open overnight per 1,000 of local population in each strategic health authority (SHA) area is shown in the following table. The current 10 SHAs were established on 1 July 2006. Prior to this there were 28 SHAs. Data for 1997-98 to 2001-02 have been mapped to the 28 SHAs that were established on 1 April 2002 as Office for National Statistics population estimates have been produced at this level.

Bed numbers have fallen because hospitals are dealing with patients more efficiently and more people are treated in primary care settings—experts all agree that this is the best way to deliver health care to patients.

Advances in medical technology and shorter stays for routine operations mean fewer beds are needed across the service—this is part of a long-term downward trend in the average length of stay in hospital. But where the NHS needs more beds, there are more beds. For example, in day surgery, the number of day-only beds has increased by more than 47 per cent. since 1997-98, and we now have 55 per cent. more critical care beds and 116 per cent. more intermediate care beds than we had in 2000.

Average daily number of available acute beds in wards open overnight per 1,000 population

SHA code	*SHA name*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
	England	2.05	1.98

Average daily number of available acute beds in wards open overnight per 1,000 population

SHA code	SHA name	2006-07	2007-08
Q30	North East	2.56	2.45
Q31	North West	2.47	2.35
Q32	Yorkshire and the Humber	2.28	2.18
Q33	East Midlands	1.81	1.80
Q34	West Midlands	2.16	2.14
Q35	East of England	1.54	1.51
Q36	London	2.08	1.94
Q37	South East Coast	1.61	1.53
Q38	South Central	1.64	1.64
Q39	South West	2.30	2.24

Average daily number of available acute beds in wards open overnight per 1,000 population

SHA code	SHA name	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
	England	2.22	2.21	2.19	2.19	2.19	2.19	2.20	2.19	2.14
Q01	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA	2.15	2.13	2.12	2.15	2.13	2.13	2.19	2.12	1.98
Q02	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA	0.99	1.00	1.00	1.22	1.28	1.25	1.29	1.38	1.26
Q03	Essex Strategic HA	1.48	1.46	1.47	1.49	1.47	1.49	1.52	1.51	1.51
Q04	North West London Strategic HA	2.59	2.66	2.40	2.22	2.19	2.16	2.17	2.22	2.13
Q05	North Central London Strategic HA	3.12	2.99	2.87	2.81	2.71	2.68	2.78	2.69	2.64
Q06	North East London Strategic HA	2.38	2.33	2.16	2.22	2.24	2.24	2.26	2.21	2.22
Q07	South East London Strategic HA	2.32	2.26	2.25	2.27	2.21	2.09	2.09	2.05	1.92
Q08	South West London Strategic HA	1.95	1.93	2.15	2.14	2.15	2.04	2.12	2.19	2.15
Q09	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear Strategic HA	2.76	2.76	2.76	2.74	2.76	2.74	2.75	2.74	2.77
Q10	County Durham and Tees Valley SHA	2.65	2.62	2.59	2.59	2.49	2.41	2.45	2.38	2.33
Q11	North and East Yorkshire and North Lincs SHA	2.02	1.90	1.89	1.92	1.91	1.97	1.94	1.94	1.92
Q12	West Yorkshire Strategic HA	2.49	2.44	2.42	2.43	2.38	2.30	2.28	2.20	2.13
Q13	Cumbria and Lancashire Strategic HA	2.42	2.47	2.39	2.43	2.32	2.32	2.30	2.21	2.20
Q14	Greater Manchester Strategic HA	2.83	2.82	2.82	2.80	2.83	2.78	2.82	2.79	2.71
Q15	Cheshire and Merseyside Strategic HA	2.51	2.51	2.60	2.67	2.69	2.70	2.72	2.77	2.68
Q16	Thames Valley Strategic HA	1.90	1.86	1.81	1.65	1.82	1.85	1.85	1.84	1.80
Q17	Hampshire and Isle of Wight Strategic HA	1.87	1.81	1.78	1.91	1.92	1.94	2.00	2.00	1.83
Q18	Kent and Medway Strategic HA	1.67	1.67	1.69	1.70	1.62	1.57	1.55	1.57	1.54
Q19	Surrey and Sussex Strategic HA	1.88	1.83	1.70	1.77	1.84	1.79	1.92	1.84	1.80
Q20	Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire SHA	2.32	2.40	2.40	2.33	2.34	2.42	2.43	2.43	2.56
Q21	South West Peninsula Strategic HA	2.43	2.45	2.48	2.50	2.61	2.58	2.61	2.57	2.50
Q22	Dorset and Somerset Strategic HA	2.21	2.16	2.16	2.15	2.14	2.13	2.24	2.19	2.16
Q23	South Yorkshire Strategic HA	2.78	2.88	2.81	2.83	2.93	3.07	2.97	3.02	3.05
Q24	Trent Strategic HA	2.12	2.12	2.17	2.11	2.02	1.96	1.94	1.90	1.85
Q25	Leics, Northants and Rutland SHA	1.91	1.92	1.96	1.94	1.91	1.99	1.95	1.89	1.93
Q26	Shropshire and Staffordshire SHA	1.77	1.84	1.83	1.89	1.90	1.85	1.85	1.83	1.78
Q27	Birmingham and The Black Country SHA	2.52	2.55	2.55	2.60	2.60	2.66	2.62	2.68	2.69
Q28	West Midlands South Strategic HA	1.99	1.98	2.00	1.97	2.06	2.15	2.06	2.07	2.07

Notes:
1. The data are for beds in wards open overnight only.
2. The data on day-only beds cannot be split by sector to show just acute beds.

Source:
Department of Health KH03 return, ONS Mid Year population estimates.

Hospitals

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* name and *(b)* organisation code is of each university hospital in England. [264149]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is shown in the following table.

The list represents national health service sites that have university hospital or similar in their name.

Organisation code	Organisation	Site code	Site
REM	Aintree University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	REM21	University Hospital Aintree
RTK	Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust	RTK52	West Middlesex University Hospital
RVN	Avon And Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	RVN2J	University of Bath

Organisation code	*Organisation*	*Site code*	*Site*
RVL	Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	RVLC9	North Middlesex University Hospital Trust
RDD	Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	RDDH0	Basildon University Hospital
RG3	Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	RG303	Princess Royal University Hospital
RW3	Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS Trust	RW3DH	University Dental Hospital
RLN	City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust	RLN01	University Hospital of Hartlepool
RLN	City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust	RLNDU	University Hospital of North Durham
RXP	County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust	RXPCP	University Hospital of North Durham
RJ1	Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust	RJ132	Princess Royal University Hospital
RJ1	Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust	RJ127	University Hospital Lewisham
RW1	Hampshire Partnership NHS Trust	RW1Y5	University of Southampton
RQX	Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	RQXM1	Homerton University Hospital
RR8	Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	RR813	St. James's University Hospital
RT5	Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust	RT503	University Hospitals
REP	Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust	REP17	Royal Liverpool University Hospital
RJ6	Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	RJ611	Mayday University Hospital
RW4	Mersey Care NHS Trust	RW429	Oak House—Mersey Care at Aintree University Hospital Site
RP6	Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	RP608	Moorfields at Mayday University Hospital
RM1	Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHS Trust	RM102	Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital
RLY	North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust	RLYC5	University Hospital of North Staffordshire
RVW	North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust	RVWAA	University Hospital of Hartlepool
RVW	North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust	RVWAE	University Hospital of North Tees
RX1	Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	RX1CC	Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust—City Campus
RX1	Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	RX1RA	Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust—Queen's Medical Centre Campus
RHA	Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust	RHARA	University Hospital
RQ6	Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust	RQ614	Royal Liverpool University Dental Hospital
RQ6	Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust	RQ617	The Royal Liverpool University Hospital
RRJ	Royal Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	RRJ24	University Hospital Birmingham
RTR	South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust	RTRAT	The James Cook University Hospital
RTR	South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust	RTRHP	University Hospital of Hartlepool
RTR	South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust	RTRNT	University Hospital of North Tees
RQY	South West London and St. George's Mental Health NHS Trust	RQY01	Springfield University Hospital
RJ7	St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust	RJ728	St. George's at Mayday University Hospital
RBN	St. Helen's and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust	RBN58	Royal Liverpool University Hospital
RBN	St. Helen's and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust	RBN50	University Hospital Aintree
RXX	Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Trust	RXX38	Royal Holloway University
RX3	Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust	RX3EW	University Hospital of Hartlepool
RX3	Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust	RX3EP	University Hospital of North Durham
RX3	Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Trust	RX3FA	University Hospital of North Tees
RJ2	The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	RJ224	University Hospital Lewisham
RA7	United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust	RA7C1	University Hospital Bristol
RA7	United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust	RA709	University of Bristol Dental Hospital
RRV	University College London NHS Foundation Trust	RRV03	University College Hospital
RJE	University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust	RJEHQ	University Hospital of North Staffordshire
RKB	University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust	RKB01	University Hospital Coventry
RFW	West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	RFW01	West Middlesex University Hospital
RGC	Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	RGCKH	Whipps Cross University Hospital

In Vitro Fertilisation

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether his Department has collected figures on the number of patients moving from one region to another in order to receive three full cycles of IVF treatment; [263512]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of steps to implement the policy of single embryo transfer in fertility clinics; and if he will make a statement; [263513]

(3) what support and guidance his Department plans to provide to primary care trusts to assist them to implement a policy of single embryo transfer; and if he will make a statement. [263514]

Dawn Primarolo: We do not collect information centrally on any patients moving from one locality to another to seek three cycles of in vitro fertilisation (IVF) as a national health service treatment.

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) in partnership with professional bodies and

other stakeholders, including patient groups and representatives of the NHS, has developed a national strategy to significantly reduce the incidence of multiple births resulting from IVF and related treatments. This strategy is known as the "One at a Time" campaign and includes promoting greater use of single embryo transfers (SET) where this is clinically appropriate for individual patients, leaving scope for the exercise of clinical discretion. The Department has observer status on the stakeholder group.

The HFEA has required all licensed treatment centres to have in place a documented multiple births minimisation strategy, and to send a copy to the HFEA.

The Department has established an expert group on commissioning NHS infertility provision to identify the barriers to the implementation of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) fertility guideline in England and to help NHS commissioners to progress towards full implementation of the guideline. The expert group produced an interim report in August 2008, which recognised that patients are more likely to accept SET if they are assured that provision of services is established in line with the NICE guideline.

Leukaemia: Research

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on research into leukaemia in each of the last 10 years. [264405]

Dawn Primarolo: Over the last 10 years, the main part of the Department's research and development budget has been allocated to and managed by national health service organisations. Those organisations have accounted for their use of the allocations they have received from the Department in an annual research and development report. The reports identify total, aggregated expenditure on national priority areas, including cancer. They do not provide details of research into particular cancer sites.

The National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI), a United Kingdom wide partnership between government, charities and industry, makes cancer research information available online via the International Cancer Research Portfolio database at:

www.cancerportfolio.org

Details of current departmental and Medical Research Council site-specific cancer research can be found through this database.

NHS Treatment Centres: Private Sector

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what externally-contracted bodies have been paid by his Department to *(a)* review, *(b)* negotiate and *(c)* audit independent sector treatment centre contracts in the last five years; and how much has been paid to each. [263730]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department directly reviewed the Independent Sector Treatment Centre (ISTC) projects, but engaged specialists (PA Consulting) to provide capacity mapping. The Department negotiated the ISTC projects, but engaged the following legal firms to provide legal advice and financial analysts to provide accounting advice.

Company	Total (£ million)
Review	
PA Consulting	0.9
Negotiate	
Addleshaw Goddard LLP	15.8
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer	6.1
KPMG LLP	5.4
Morgan Cole	6.5
PricewaterhouseCoopers	12.2
Wragge and Co.	18.0
Total	65.0

The Department has not conducted any audits of the ISTC programme.

Total spend on externally procured support for reviewing and negotiating the ISTC programme for the period 2004-05 to 2008-09.

	£ million
2004-05	12.5
2005-06	18.6
2006-07	19.0
2007-08	11.1
2008-09	3.9
Total	65.0

NHS: Standards

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department plans to require NHS trusts to use patient-recorded user outcome measures. [263135]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department will require all national health service trusts to collect and report on Patient-Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) for a defined set of interventions in accordance with departmental guidance, from April 2009. The relevant interventions are elective hip and knee replacements, groin hernia and varicose vein surgeries.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Ms Angela C. Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients in each of the last five years did not receive all or part of their prescriptions because they were not able to afford them. [263635]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not hold information on prescriptions issued, only on prescription items that are dispensed.

Ms Angela C. Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Prescription Charges Review led by Professor Ian Gilmore will be completed in the summer of 2009; and if he will make a statement. [263636]

Dawn Primarolo: Ministers have asked Professor Ian Gilmore, President of the Royal College of Physicians, to lead a review of prescription charges. The review will consider how to implement the commitment to exempt patients with long-term conditions from prescription charges. The review is currently gathering evidence from

a wide range of stakeholders, using a range of different techniques. Subject to what emerges from this phase, the review should be on course to report as planned in the summer.

Primary Care Trusts: Freedom of Information

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he takes in response to allegations that primary care trusts have not provided accurate responses for requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [264009]

Mr. Bradshaw: Should such an allegation be received, the normal procedure would be to recommend to the bringer of the allegation that he or she redirect the allegation to the Information Commissioner's Office, who has the enforcement powers to intervene under the Freedom of Information Act. The Department does not have powers under the Act to intervene with other organisations.

Prosthetics: Armed Forces

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how National Health Service budgets for *(a)* supply and *(b)* maintenance of prosthetics for former service personnel are allocated. [263610]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is for primary care trusts in partnership with local stakeholders, including practice based commissioners, local government and the public to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health and to commission services accordingly. This process provides the means for addressing local needs within the health community including the provision of prosthetic services for former service personnel.

The current operating framework for the national health service requires commissioners to take account of military personnel, their families and veterans when commissioning services in their area. It is anticipated that those who use prostheses leaving the armed services to the NHS will be in single figures per year. The NHS will need to provide prosthetic maintenance to a service veteran that is equivalent to that previously enjoyed while the individual was serving and this is clinically appropriate.

Social Services: Standards

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the implications of the Laming Report for his Department's procedures for handling adult social care serious case reviews; and if he will make a statement. [264345]

Phil Hope: The Department is carefully considering the Laming Report in relation to adult safeguarding. The review of 'No Secrets' is currently analysing the responses to the recent public consultation, which includes responses to specific questions about serious case reviews. The publication of the Laming Report is therefore timely, as the Government are now considering their recommendations as part of the broader review of adult safeguarding.

Thalidomide

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received on those experiencing the effects of thalidomide and air travel in the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [264208]

Dawn Primarolo: We are not aware of having received any representations on this issue.

Trans: A Practical Guide to the NHS

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department's publication, "Trans: A practical guide to the NHS" cost to produce. [264915]

Phil Hope: The cost to the Department of producing "Trans: A practical guide for the NHS" was £24,165 (excluding VAT).

Vulnerable Adults: Protection

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what timetable he has set for consideration of the outcomes of his consultation on No Secrets guidance; how many responses to the consultation he received; how many responses have proposed the introduction of legislation; how much his Department has spent on the review and consultation to date; and if he will make a statement. [264344]

Phil Hope: The public consultation "Safeguarding Adults: A Consultation on the Review of the 'No Secrets' Guidance" closed on 31 January 2009, following unprecedented levels of engagement from a wide range of organisations and individuals. The consultation involved several thousand people participating in a number of varied events across England. These were successful in gaining valuable participation from a wide range of service users, including older people, those with mental health needs and learning disabilities, along with other members of the community. In addition, there was also active participation from several thousand professional workers in the police, social work, medical sector, national health service, voluntary, legal and housing sectors.

The Department is leading the review of 'No Secrets' and is now analysing the 500 detailed written consultation responses received, which include extensive comments covering all the points and questions in the consultation document. Many of these responses exceed 20 pages. The Government will publish a report once the analysis is complete. At this early stage, it is not possible to be precise about when this might be. Nor is it yet possible to say how many responses proposed the introduction of legislation. The costs of the review and consultation will be calculated once the review has concluded.

Weather

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to mitigate the effects of high temperatures in summer on the health of *(a)* elderly people, *(b)* young people and *(c)* other vulnerable groups. [264182]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department produces an annual updated Heatwave Plan which includes steps to reduce the effects of high temperatures in summer, especially for those groups whose health is most likely to be affected, including the very young, the elderly and other vulnerable groups. This guidance is disseminated to health and social care organisations and local authorities. Additionally, there is a public facing information leaflet on how individuals can protect themselves in hot weather.

Wheelchairs

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Romsey (Sandra Gidley) of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 393W, on wheelchairs, when his Department first announced its intention to produce a new model for wheelchair services; when he expects to publish the new model; how much his Department has spent on the work to date; and if he will make a statement. [264358]

Phil Hope: The Transforming Community Equipment and Wheelchair Services Programme (TCEWS) was launched in June 2006. The Care Services Efficiency Delivery Programme were commissioned to look at community equipment and wheelchair services in parallel but as the data were insufficient to develop an outline business case necessary to make robust recommendations for the way forward, a further in-depth data collection around wheelchairs services took place during 2007.

It is estimated that the Department has spent a total £323,000 on data collection and development of a new model of wheelchair services delivery. A more defined figure is not available as the earlier programme included community equipment and wheelchairs services.

Discussions are ongoing within the Department on the future model for wheelchair services so as to ensure that a model is developed which is suitable for the people using services and the national health service. A report and a proposal will be taken to the NHS Board later this spring.

Wines: Sales

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to encourage the use of 125 millimetre glasses for the consumption of wine in order to reduce levels of such consumption. [264111]

Dawn Primarolo: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary, will shortly consult on a new mandatory code of practice for alcohol retailing. This will set out compulsory licensing conditions for all alcohol retailers and will give licensing authorities new powers to clamp down on specific problems caused by groups of premises in their areas. The primary aim of the code is to reduce alcohol-related nuisance and disorder, but measures may have an additional public health benefit. Conditions being considered include requiring that on-trade bars and pubs offer a choice to customers, which includes minimum standard measures of alcohol. The precise measures are expected to be a subject of the consultation.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

EU Nationals

9. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what steps the Electoral Commission is taking to ensure that nationals of other EU member states entitled to vote in elections for the European Parliament and local authorities in the UK are informed of how to exercise their entitlement. [264468]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that its public awareness campaign for the June 2009 elections will include information directed at nationals of other EU member states. The campaign will use online and press advertising targeted specifically at EU nationals, explaining who is eligible to register to vote, how to register and providing key information on the elections. The Commission also provides translated registration forms and other voter materials on its website.

Voting Levels

Mr. Bone: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what recent assessment the Electoral Commission has made of levels of voting among people aged 25 and under. [264466]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that those aged 25 or under tend to be less likely to vote at elections than other age groups. However, specific turnout figures according to age should be treated as estimates only.

The Commission's report on turnout at the 2005 UK parliamentary general election included two different estimates for the 18 to 24-year-old age group.

The first was provided by MORI and indicated that turnout was 37 per cent. among those aged 18 to 24. This was based on an aggregation of their pre-election surveys, with a total sample of approximately 18,000 people.

The second was provided by the British Election Study's (BES) post-election survey of approximately 4,700 adults. This estimated that 45 per cent. of 18 to 24-year-olds had voted.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Liverpool University

Mrs. Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will make representations to the University of Liverpool on its proposal to close its departments of politics, philosophy, communications and statistics; and if he will make a statement. [264773]

Mr. Lammy: Parliament decided in passing the Further and Higher Education Act 1992 that universities should be autonomous and that Ministers should have no role in deciding how individual subjects and courses are funded. This independence is a great strength of our world class sector. But it also means that judgments have to be made by universities themselves in developing their own priorities and sense of mission.

Overseas Students

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many students from other EU member states in receipt of *(a)* full, *(b)* partial and *(c)* no maintenance grants (i) from each local authority in England and (ii) attending English universities there (A) were in 2007-08 and (B) are in 2008-09. [264457]

Mr. Lammy: The data provided in the three tables placed in the House Libraries show the number of students in receipt of full, partial and nil maintenance from each award authority in England for pre-2008 entry cohorts in academic years 2007/08 and 2008/09 as well as for the 2008 entry cohort in 2008/09.

Students attending English universities from outside the UK and within the EU are not generally entitled to a maintenance grant.

However the data provided include certain groups of EU nationals for example those who have lived in the UK and Islands three years prior to the start of their course, EEA migrant workers and certain family members.

Data exclude students who started their course in 2004/05 and 2005/06 and received a Higher Education Grant.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children: Protection

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 22 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1698-99W, on children: protection, how many representations on child protection issues his Department has passed to the inspectorates on the more formal basis identified in the answer; and what the formal basis referred to is. [252606]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 29 January 2009]:* It is not possible to quantify the number of cases referred to inspectorates by the Department for Children, Schools and Families on a formal basis. The Department communicates routinely with Ofsted and other inspectorates from across the Department. Where communication is on a more formal basis it is because it relates, for instance, to inspectorates' inspection and regulatory functions.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations were briefed by (i) him, (b) other Ministers and (iii) departmental officials on the contents of Lord Laming's report into safeguarding children, before mid-day on 12 March 2009. [264335]

Ed Balls *[holding answer 18 March 2009]:* DCSF Ministers did not brief any individual or organisations on the contents of Lord Laming's report before mid-day on 12 March. Individuals and organisations whose representatives were briefed by DCSF officials or given embargoed access to the report before that time included:

Annette Brooke MP
Michael Gove MP
Barry Sheerman MP
Association of Chief Police Officers
Association of Directors of Children's Services
Barnardo's
The Children's Society
Children's Workforce Development Council
General Social Care Council
National Children's Bureau (NCB)
Action for Children
National College for School Leadership
National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
NHS Confederation
Ofsted
11 Million
Local Government Association
Phoenix Chief Advocates
Social Work Task Force
Sir Roger Singleton

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to his statement of 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 789, by whom the child protection systems of Sweden and Denmark have been commended for their use of the integrated children's system. [256473]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 12 February 2009]:* A number of countries, including Sweden and Denmark, are using the conceptual framework which underpins the Integrated Children's System to develop their systems for assessing, planning, intervening and reviewing in respect of children who would be defined as children in need or looked after children. Each country has developed its own technology to enable social workers to record their work in electronic case records. Training courses for social workers in countries such as Denmark and Sweden have a strong pedagogic, child development and skills focus which enables them to make best use of the conceptual framework which is integral to the Integrated Children's System and its underpinning processes. In Sweden, an outcomes focus served to highlight the fact that even in a country with very high levels of universal services the health outcomes of looked after children were poorer than for those of other children.

One of the benefits of the international collaboration on ICS has been the shared learning about implementation of such systems.

In Australia, Barnardo's have major projects involving the use of the Assessment Framework and Looking after Children Exemplars. They have designed and built their own IT systems for their practitioners to record their work with children and families. Their researchers and staff involved in implementing the projects have made positive comments about the use of the conceptual model that underpins ICS. In particular, that it helps staff focus on identifying the needs of individual children and on improving their outcomes.

The following quote was made by one of the managers responsible for supporting the implementation of the Australian Barnardo's project SCARF in a family support setting:

"Firstly, workers became confident in using a common language, that is, they mean the same thing when they speak about such notions as strengthens, needs, risk of harm, or good enough parenting. Establishing a common language has had the effect of improving communication and reducing the chance of erroneous decisions in case management. Secondly workers using SCARF

reported that they paid more attention to the effect their work had on the needs of the children rather than looking at its impact on the parent or carer."

(Tolley S (2005), National Child Protection Clearinghouse Newsletter Vol. 13 No, 2, Winter 2005, pp 16- 17).

Education: Standards

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many secondary schools Ofsted has graded as *(a)* outstanding, *(b)* good, *(c)* satisfactory and *(d)* inadequate in (i) England, (ii) Leicestershire and (iii) Leicester East constituency in the last two years; [262208]

(2) how many primary schools Ofsted has graded as *(a)* outstanding, *(b)* good, *(c)* satisfactory and *(d)* inadequate (i) England, (ii) Leicestershire and (iii) Leicester East constituency in the last 12 months. [262209]

Jim Knight: These are matters for Ofsted. HM Chief Inspector, Christine Gilbert, has written to my right hon. Friend and copies of her replies have been placed in the Library.

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 11 March 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

School inspection data are published on a termly basis and the latest data available are for inspections up to July 2008. Data for schools inspected in autumn 2008 will be published on 18 March 2009, and will be available on the Ofsted website

www.ofsted.gov.uk.

Tables A and B shows the number of secondary schools inspected by Ofsted in the academic years 2006/07 and 2007/08, grouped by overall effectiveness grade and location. Table C shows aggregated figures for both years. The numbers include grades for academies and city technology colleges.

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Children, Schools and Families and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Table A: Overall effectiveness of secondary schools inspected in 2006/07

	Number of secondary schools inspected				
Area	*Outstanding*	*Good*	*Satisfactory*	*Inadequate*	*Total*
England	193	469	400	102	1,164
Leicestershire	4	11	3	0	18
Leicester East	1	1	0	0	2

Table B: Overall effectiveness of secondary schools inspected in 2007/08

	Number of secondary schools inspected				
Area	*Outstanding*	*Good*	*Satisfactory*	*Inadequate*	*Total*
England	173	488	516	117	1,294
Leicestershire	1	13	10	0	24
Leicester East	0	2	1	0	3

Table C: Overall effectiveness of secondary schools inspected in 2006/07 and 2007/08

	Number of secondary schools inspected				
Area	*Outstanding*	*Good*	*Satisfactory*	*Inadequate*	*Total*
England	366	957	916	219	2,458
Leicestershire	5	24	13	0	42
Leicester East	1	3	1	0	5

Letter from Christine Gilbert, dated 11 March 2009:

Your recent parliamentary question has been passed to me, as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, for a response.

School inspection data are published on a termly basis and the latest data available are for inspections up to July 2008. Data for schools inspected in autumn 2008 will be published on 18 March 2009, and will be available on the Ofsted website

www.ofsted.gov.uk

Table A shows the number of primary schools inspected by Ofsted in the academic year 2007/08, grouped by overall effectiveness grade and location

Table A: Overall effectiveness of primary schools inspected in 2007/08

	Number of primary schools inspected				
Area	*Outstanding*	*Good*	*Satisfactory*	*Inadequate*	*Total*
England	798	3,023	1,999	255	6,075
Leicestershire	9	39	30	1	79
Leicester East	1	2	7	0	10

A copy of this reply has been sent to Rt Hon Jim Knight MP, Minister of State for Children, Schools and Families and will be placed in the library of both Houses.

Food Technology: Facilities

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which 170 secondary schools have been awarded funding from the first tranche of funds for new practical cooking space in schools; and in which local authority area each is located. [264346]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The following table contains information regarding the 170 schools which have been awarded the funding for new practical cooking spaces and the local authority area in which the schools are located.

Local authority	School
Barnet	Friern Barnet
Barnet	Henrietta Barnett
Barnet	Queen Elizabeth's School
Bath and North East Somerset	The Link School
Bedfordshire	Gilbert Inglefield Middle School
Bexley	Beths Grammar School (Boys)
Bexley	St. Columba's Catholic Boys' School
Birmingham	Al-Hijrah School
Birmingham	Bishop Vesey's Grammar School
Birmingham	Handsworth Grammar School
Birmingham	King Edward VI Aston School
Birmingham	King Edward VI Camp Hill School for Boys
Birmingham	Kings Norton Boys' School
Bolton	Firwood School
Bolton	Little Lever Specialist Language College
Bournemouth	Bournemouth School
Brent	Cardinal Hinsley RC High School
Brent	Preston Manor High School
Brighton and Hove	Cardinal Newman School (VA)
Brighton and Hove	Hillside Special School
Bromley	Hayes School
Bromley	Kelsey Park Sports College
Bromley	Ravens Wood School
Bromley	St. Olave's and St. Saviour's Grammar School
Bromley	The Ravensbourne School
Buckinghamshire	Dr. Challoner's Grammar
Buckinghamshire	John Hampden Grammar School
Buckinghamshire	Prestwood Lodge
Buckinghamshire	Royal Grammar School
Buckinghamshire	Sir William Borlase's Grammar
Bury	Manchester Mesivta
Croydon	Coloma Convent Girls School (VA)
Croydon	Edenham High School
Croydon	Norbury Manor Business and Enterprise School
Croydon	Riddlesdown
Croydon	Shirley High Performing Arts School
Croydon	St. Andrews CofE
Croydon	St. Josephs College
Croydon	St. Mary's High School
Croydon	Thomas Moore Catholic School
Croydon	Virgo Fidelis Convent Senior School
Croydon	Westwood Girls College for Languages and Art
Croydon	Woodcote High School
Devon	Barley Lane School
Devon	Colyton Grammar
Devon	Lampard Community School
Devon	Pathfield
East Sussex	William Parker School
East Sussex	Willingdon School
Enfield	St. Ignatius College
Essex	Chelmsford County High School for Girls
Essex	Chelmsford, King Edward VI Grammar School
Essex	Colchester Royal Grammar School
Essex	Manningtree High School
Essex	Ramsden Hall School
Gloucestershire	Cam House
Gloucestershire	Pate's Grammar School
Gloucestershire	Sandford School
Gloucestershire	Sir Thomas Richs
Gloucestershire	The Crypt School
Hampshire	Limington House Special School
Hampshire	Purbrook Park School
Harrow	Bentley Wood High
Harrow	Canons High
Harrow	Harrow High
Harrow	Hatch End High
Harrow	Nower Hill High
Harrow	Park High
Harrow	Rooks Heath High
Harrow	Sacred Heart High (VA)
Harrow	Salvatorian College (VA)
Harrow	Shaftesbury
Harrow	Whitmore High
Hertfordshire	Brandies School
Hertfordshire	The Bishop's Stortford High
Hertfordshire	The Leventhorpe
Hertfordshire	Watford Grammar School for Boys
Hounslow	Gunnersbury Catholic School for Boys (VA)
Hounslow	Isleworth and Syon School for Boys
Kent	Dartford Grammar School
Kent	Dartford Grammar School for Girls
Kent	Invicta Grammar School
Kent	Maidstone Grammar School
Kent	Oakwood Park Grammar School
Kent	Simon Langton School for Boys
Kent	Skinners School
Kent	The Judd School
Kent	Tonbridge Grammar School
Kent	Wilmington Grammar School for Boys
Kent	Wrotham School
Kingston Upon Thames	The Tiffin Girls School
Kingston Upon Thames	Tiffin Boys School
Kirklees	Longley School
Kirklees	Lydgate School
Lancashire	Bleasdale House School
Lancashire	Hutton CE Grammar School
Lancashire	Lancaster Royal Grammar School
Lancashire	North Cliffe School
Lancashire	Red Marsh School
Lancashire	The Coppice School
Lewisham	Forest Hill School
Lincolnshire	Caistor Grammar School—Caistor
Lincolnshire	Carre's Grammar School—Sleaford
Lincolnshire	Freistan Learning Centre—Boston
Lincolnshire	Spalding Grammar School—Spalding
Lincolnshire	St. Hughs School
Lincolnshire	St. Bernards School
Lincolnshire	The Eresby School
Lincolnshire	The Garth School
Lincolnshire	The John Fielding Community Special School
Lincolnshire	The King's School
Medway	Chatham Grammar School for Boys
Medway	Greenacre School
Medway	Sir Joseph Williamson Mathematical School
Medway	The Howard School

Local authority	School
Medway	The Rochester Grammar School
Norfolk	Archbishop Sancroft CE VA High School
Norfolk	Chapel Road Special School
Norfolk	Eaton Hall School
North Somerset	St. Katherine's Community Secondary School
North Yorkshire	Brooklands School
North Yorkshire	Ermysted's Grammar School
Northamptonshire	Greenfield Special School
Northamptonshire	Latimer Specialist Performing Arts College
Northamptonshire	Maplefields Special School
Northamptonshire	Northampton School for Boys
Northumberland	Ovingham Middle School
Oxfordshire	Iffley Mead
Oxfordshire	Northern House
Oxfordshire	St. Birinus Boys
Plymouth	Devonport High School for Boys
Plymouth	St. Boniface's Roman Catholic College (VA)
Reading	Reading School
Redbridge	Chadwell Heath Foundation School
Redbridge	Ilford County High School
Redbridge	New Rush Hall School
Somerset	Brymore School
Somerset	Critchill School
Somerset	Selworthy School
Southend-on-Sea	Southend High School for Boys
Southend-on-Sea	St. Thomas More High School
Staffordshire	Chasetown Community School
Staffordshire	Tore Campus Vocational Centre
Staffordshire	Walton Priory Middle School
Staffordshire	Windsor Park CE Middle School
Stockport	Windlehurst Special School
Surrey	Glyn Technology College
Sutton	John Fisher
Sutton	Sutton Grammar School
Sutton	Wallington County Grammar
Sutton	Wilsons
Tameside	Audenshaw High School
Telford and Wrekin	Newport Girls High School
Telford and Wrekin	Adams Grammar School (VA)
Trafford Council	Altrincham Grammar School for Boys
Warwickshire	Alcester High School
Warwickshire	King Edward VI School
Warwickshire	Lawrence Sheriff School
Warwickshire	Studley High School
West Sussex	Fordwater School
Wiltshire	Bishop Wordsworth's CE Grammar School for Boys
Wiltshire	Devizes Downland School
Wiltshire	Salisbury Exeter House Special School
Wiltshire	Trowbridge Larkrise School
Windsor and Maidenhead	St. Peter's Middle School (VA)
Windsor and Maidenhead	The Windsor Boys' School
Wirral	Calday Grange Grammar School
Wirral	Kilgarth School
Wirral	St. Anselm's College
Wirral	Wirral Grammar School for Boys

This information will be placed in the House Libraries. It will also be made available on the Teachernet website within the next few days via the following link:

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/schoolfunding/cookspaces/

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families with reference to the answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 489-90W, on General Certificate of Secondary Education, how many and what proportion of *(a)* all pupils and *(b)* pupils eligible to receive free school meals did not attain any GCSE grades higher than D in each year since 2002, broken down by local authority area. [243542]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information available will be placed in the House Libraries.

Figures for 2002 have not been provided as these are not available on a comparable basis.

Pupils: Diabetes

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what steps his Department takes to encourage increased awareness of diabetes among teachers and head teachers; and if he will make a statement; [244166]

(2) what support is made available in schools for children *(a)* up to the age of 11 and *(b)* aged 11 to 16 years old who have diabetes; and if he will make a statement. [244167]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: "Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings", issued jointly by my Department and the Department of Health in 2005, specifically addresses what schools can do to support pupils with medical needs such as diabetes. It encourages schools and local authorities to develop policies on the management of pupils' medicines and on supporting pupils with medical needs, taking account of local resources and their various responsibilities. We produced sister guidance in the same year, entitled "Including me: managing complex health needs in schools and early years settings".

We are taking a number of steps to ensure that pupils with long-term medical conditions have access to the help they need to enable them to attend school and participate in school activities.

Special Educational Needs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what percentage of pupils with *(a)* a statement of special educational needs and *(b)* unstatemented special educational needs who attended maintained special schools achieved five A* to G grades at GCSE in each year since 2003; [253441]

(2) how many and what percentage of pupils with *(a)* a statement of special educational needs and *(b)* unstatemented special educational needs who attended maintained special schools achieved (i) five A* to C grades in all subjects, (ii) five A* to C grades including English and mathematics and (iii) five A* to G grades at GCSE in each year since 2003. [253442]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Figures are available for the years 2006 to 2008 only, and are provided in the following table:

Number and percentage of pupils who attend maintained special schools achieving GCSE and equivalents

		2006		2007		2008	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Children with a statement of special educational needs	5+ A* to C	39	0.4	47	0.5	52	0.5
	5+ A* to C including English and maths	17	0.2	21	0.2	30	0.3
	5+ A* to G	500	5.2	638	6.6	679	7.0
Children with special educational needs but without a statement	5+ A* to C	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	0	0
	5+ A* to C including English and maths	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	0	0
	5+ A* to G	7	11.1	7	11.5	11	14.7

[1] Less than 5.

Notes:

1. Children with SEN but without a statement can only go to special schools in prescribed circumstances, for example for the purposes of an assessment of their SEN. The numbers of such children are very small and so the data for their results should be treated with caution.
2. Pupils at the end of Key Stage 4.
3. Figures are based on final data in 2006-07 and revised data in 2008.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will place in the Library a copy of each quarterly return on antisocial behaviour collected by crime and disorder partnerships; and if she will make a statement. [263349]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Crime and disorder reduction partnerships (CDRPs) provide information every quarter to the Home Office on which tools and powers they are deploying to tackle antisocial behaviour.

The Government want to ensure that members of the public can find out easily how their local agencies are tackling antisocial behaviour.

The latest information on the use of tools and powers will be published shortly.

Antisocial Behaviour: Elderly

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals aged over 65 years have been arrested for antisocial behaviour offences *(a)* while under the influence of alcohol, *(b)* while under the influence of drugs and *(c)* in total in each of the last 10 years. [264016]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery.

It is not possible to separately identify antisocial behaviour offences from the categories of arrests reported to the Home Office.

Antisocial Behaviour: Fixed Penalties

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what personal information is stored on the Police National Computer in relation to those who have received a penalty notice for disorder. [263807]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The standard information gathered for an arrest summons and stored on the police national computer (PNC) is:

Name
Age
Sex
Address
Height
Ethnic appearance
Details of the offence
Date
Time
Location

If the disposal is undertaken in a police station custody suite then a DNA sample and fingerprints can be taken. While the PNC will state whether or not there is a record of DNA and fingerprints for the offender, the data are stored on the National DNA Database and IDENT1 (the National Fingerprint Database) respectively. If the penalty notice for disorder is issued in the street then fingerprints and DNA cannot be taken. In both cases an adjudication of 'non-conviction' goes on the record and a disposal of a fine can be recorded.

Cannabis: Young People

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people aged under 18 years have been identified in police raids on cannabis factories in the last 12 months. [263684]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Data provided by the Ministry of Justice, showing the number of persons aged 10 to 17 years proceeded against at magistrates courts for cultivating, or being involved in the production of a controlled drug—cannabis, are given in the following table for 2007 (latest available). Data for 2008 will be published in the autumn of 2009.

Identification data are not collected centrally by the police or Ministry of Justice; proceeded against information is provided in lieu.

The court proceedings statistics provided relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Number of persons aged 10 to 17 proceeded against at magistrates courts for offences of cultivating and production of a controlled drug—cannabis[1], England and Wales, 2007[2,3]

	Number
Cultivate cannabis plant	71
Permit, be concerned in, conspire to, or produce a controlled drug—cannabis	23

[1] Includes offences under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971: s.4(2)(a)(b); s.6(2); s.8(a) and schedule 4.
[2] The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Credit Card Fraud and Identity Theft

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government are taking to combat *(a)* credit card fraud and *(b)* offences related to identity theft perpetrated over the internet. [264169]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government are determined to tackle the problem of fraud, whether the victim is a major organisation or a single individual.

Government have allocated £29 million over three years to implement the recommendations of the Fraud Review. This includes the creation of a National Fraud Strategic Authority, which became operational in October last year; a new national lead force role for the City of London Police; and a National Fraud Reporting Centre (NFRC), expected to go live in 2009, which will radically streamline the way that the public report fraud, including fraud committed over the internet, to the police. The NFRC will also equip law enforcement agencies with a powerful intelligence tool and help form the basis of better prevention advice and alerts to fraud threats for business and the public.

The Government are providing £3.5 million over three years to create the Police Central e-crime Unit (PCeU). This will provide support to the Police Service in developing a structured response to online crime, and its initial focus will be on the area of fraud-related electronic crime, working with the NFRC to develop a response to reports on such matters. The PCeU will act as the central unit for the police on promotion of standards for training, procedure and response to e-crime. It will bring together forces, the National Police Improvement Agency and other groups to develop training and to coordinate activity to build up the skill levels within policing. Outside of this, the Serious Organised Crime Agency will continue its on-going work to tackle the international and serious organised crime groups operating on the internet, supporting the NFRC and PCeU where appropriate.

Crimes of Violence: Crime Prevention

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent to date on the Tackling Gangs Action Programme in each of the four cities targeted under the plan, broken down by main category of expenditure. [263191]

Mr. Alan Campbell: More than £3 million has been invested in Birmingham, Liverpool, London and Manchester through the Tackling Gangs Action Programme (TGAP). TGAP saw a 51 per cent. reduction in firearms-related injuries (between October 2007 and February 2008). A breakdown of the funding allocated to each of the four participating cities are outlined in the following tables.

Investment in the Tackling Gangs Action Programme

Birmingham

	Workstream	*£*
2007-08	Enforcement, intelligence and prevention work. Including community reassurance and third sector delivery of support	304,037
2008-09	Improve risk management processes	200,000
	Implement approaches set out in Tackling Gangs: A Practical Guide	200,000
Total allocation		704,037

Liverpool

	Workstream	*£*
2007-08	Enforcement, intelligence and prevention work. Including community reassurance and third sector delivery of support	313,855
2008-09	Improve risk management processes	200,000
	Implement approaches set out in Tackling Gangs A Practical Guide	200,000
Total allocation		713,855

London

	Workstream	£
2007-08	Enforcement, intelligence and prevention work, including community reassurance and third sector delivery of support	573,473
2008-09	Improve risk management processes	200,000
	Implement approaches set out in Tackling Gangs: A Practical Guide	400,000
Total allocation		1,173,473

Manchester

	Workstream	£
2007-08	Enforcement, intelligence and prevention work, including community reassurance and third sector delivery of support	304,088
2008-09	Improve risk management processes	200,000
	Implement approaches set out in Tackling Gangs: A Practical Guide	200,000
Total allocation		704,088
Grand total		3,295,453

Driving under Influence: Elderly

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals aged over 65 years have been arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol in each of the last 10 years. [264015]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery.

The offence of driving under the influence of alcohol is not a notifiable offence and does not form a part of the arrests collection.

Immigration: Statistics

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will place in the Library a copy of the recent letter from the Minister for Borders and Immigration to the UK Statistics Authority on the topicality of statistical releases. [263053]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 9 March 2009]:* A copy of the letter from the chief executive of the UK Border Agency has been placed in the House Library.

Offences against Children: Internet

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 3 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1652W, on offences against children: internet, when her Department commenced its review of ways in which the final 5 per cent. of internet service providers could be covered by blocking; what timetable has been set to achieve 100 per cent. blocking coverage; and what steps she plans to take to achieve that objective. [261935]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government are considering all the options for progressing the final 5 per cent. of consumer broadband connections not currently covered by blocking. The Government will be setting out actions and time scales in due course.

Proceeds of Crime

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total proceeds of crime *(a)* identified, *(b)* restrained and *(c)* recovered by the Serious Organised Crime Agency was in cases where an official receiver's fee has been paid in the last three years. [264162]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 17 March 2009]:* The civil recovery powers in the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 were extended to the Serious Organised Crime Agency and prosecutors in April 2008 under the Serious Crime Act 2007. SOCA's costs relating to this new function are subject to internal validation and will be available after the end of the financial year.

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 20 March 2009

JUSTICE

Coroners

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the longest time taken to conclude a Treasure inquest was in each of the last three years. [263348]

Bridget Prentice: The Ministry of Justice collects statistics on the number of finds under the Treasure Act 1996 reported to coroners in England and Wales during each calendar year, the number of treasure inquests concluded during the year and, of these, the number of verdicts of treasure returned. Information is not collected on the time taken to conduct treasure inquests.

Informal figures are collated by the British Museum, which record the time between the inquest being requested by the British Museum and a verdict being returned. However, these figures only relate to treasure inquests which have been requested since 2006. The figures do not include inquests which were requested in earlier years, and so they do not reveal the longest time taken for treasure inquests which were concluded in each of the last three years. The British Museum figures show that the current longest-running ongoing treasure inquest was requested by them in March 2007.

Family Courts: Fees and Charges

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) when he plans to appoint an independent person to lead the review of the effect of court fees in children protection; and which candidates are being considered for the role; [264384]

(2) when he expects the review of the effects of court fees on child protection to be completed. [264385]

Bridget Prentice: The Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor, my right hon. Friend the Member for Blackburn (Mr. Straw) has appointed Francis Plowden to lead the review. His report is expected in September 2009.

Fraud: Civil Proceedings

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether recourse regarding alleged fraud in entries in *(a)* deed and *(b)* title plans is provided through the civil courts. [264420]

Bridget Prentice: Allegations of fraud may lead to proceedings in civil or criminal courts, or both. Fraudulent misrepresentation (or "deceit"), whether or not it leads to a particular entry being made in an individual register or title plan, is a tort. The civil courts have jurisdiction to hear these cases.

In addition, disputes arising out of objections to applications to Land Registry are referred to the Adjudicator to HM Land Registry, an independent tribunal. Such objections may involve, for example, an allegation that a deed was executed as a result of fraudulent misrepresentation. Decisions of the Adjudicator may be the subject of an appeal to the High Court.

HM Inspectorate of Probation: Statistics

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much time was spent by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation in assessing ethnic monitoring statistics in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* 2009. [264578]

Mr. Hanson: Such figures are not precisely discernible. This information is valuable. HM Inspectorate of Probation considers the regular information produced by NOMS on the ethnicity of offenders as background to each of its individual inspections. HMI Probation is able to segment findings over a whole inspection programme by a number of characteristics including race, but this does not involve any additional inspection resources.

Mentally Incapacitated

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what remit the Court Funds Office has to manage funds on behalf of Court of Protection clients. [264342]

Bridget Prentice: The Court Funds Office provides a banking and investment service to the civil courts in England and Wales, including the Court of Protection. Where the Court of Protection has directed that funds be lodged with the Court Funds Office, or where a deputy appointed to manage funds on behalf of a Court of Protection client has chosen to lodge funds with the Court Funds Office, those funds are dealt with as directed by the deputy, in accordance with the Court of Protection order. The Court Funds Office does not make investment decisions, or deal with funds lodged other than as instructed by the deputy or by way of a direction from the Court of Protection.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* enduring powers of attorney have been applied for and *(b)* living wills have been made in each year since the Mental Capacity Act 2005 came into force; and if he will make a statement. [264343]

Bridget Prentice: The Mental Capacity Act 2005 was fully implemented on 1 October 2007. It introduced new Lasting Powers of Attorney (LPAs) to enable people to appoint someone to make decisions on their behalf in relation to their property and affairs and/or their health and welfare.

In addition, Enduring Powers of Attorney (EPAs) made prior to October 2007 remain valid.

EPAs only need to be registered with the Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) once the person to whom they relate has lost capacity.

All LPAs must be registered with the OPG before they can be used. Between October 2007 and September 2008 the OPG received

21,200 applications to register EPAs.

9,600 applications to register health and welfare LPAs

28,500 applications to register property and affairs LPAs

During the period October 2008 to January 2009 the OPG received

8,200 applications to register EPAs.

6,000 applications to register health and welfare LPAs

22,000 applications to register property and affairs LPAs

The Mental Capacity Act 2005 gave statutory force to valid and applicable advance decisions to refuse treatment (previously also sometimes referred to as 'living wills'). The Ministry of Justice has no information regarding how many advance decisions have been made.

Offenders: Rehabilitation

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent by HM Inspectorate of Probation assessing diversity issues during the delivery of restrictive interventions to offenders in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, *(c)* 2008 and *(d)* 2009. [264581]

Mr. Hanson: Precise figures are not discernible. A major element of HM Inspectorate of Probation's inspections is an assessment of the effectiveness of the management of offenders' Risk of Harm to the public, including the delivery of restrictive interventions, in a representative sample of individual cases. While the Inspectorate's assessment of the effectiveness of the delivery of restrictive interventions takes into account any diversity issues, the latter forms only a small—though important—part of that assessment.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Big Lottery Fund: Equality

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 25 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 331W, on regional planning and development: electronic government, how much the Big Lottery Fund has provided for each regional equality and diversity partnership to date; and for what purposes such funds have been provided. [259608]

Barbara Follett: Information from the DCMS Lottery grants database, which is searchable at:

www.lottery.culture.gov.uk

uses information supplied by lottery distributing bodies and indicates that a grant of £495,933 was paid by the Big Lottery Fund to Equality South West in November 2007. The purpose of this award was to support the development of the organisation's work in training voluntary and community organisations to ensure that equality and diversity are systemic within their work.

Museums and Galleries

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many educational visits have been made to publicly funded museums in each region in each year since 1997. [263144]

Barbara Follett: Figures are not available for all museums. The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council advises that regional figures for museum visits specifically in regard to the Renaissance programme 2002-08 are as follows.

Table 1: Number of educational visits to Renaissance hub museums

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
North West	61,175	61,750	68,456	78,669	81,456	71,397
North East	92,033	102,821	115,180	115,053	111,780	125,891
Yorkshire and Humberside	110,299	104,318	96,165	96,479	109,782	111,872
West Midlands	116,599	133,618	157,202	157,780	156,132	141,422
East Midlands	114,216	111,278	94,027	89,889	87,691	93,953
East of England	50,310	50,744	56,233	63,814	67,462	81,341
South West	36,976	56,262	62,646	57,133	54,175	59,123
South East	24,650	60,834	105,555	98,743	110,336	115,732
London	69,322	81,181	87,782	78,558	84,905	95,351
Total	676,580	762,806	843,246	836,118	863,729	896,082

Since 2001-02, 18[1] of DCMS's sponsored museums have collected figures measuring the number of children aged 16 and under attending on and off-site organised educational sessions. DCMS cannot disaggregate the data by region, to provide a regional breakdown, because some institutions who have branches across different parts of the country provide a single return for the organisation. The figures are as follows:

Table 2

	Number
2001-02	1,705,634
2002-03	2,256,386
2003-04	2,270,448
2004-05	2,785,155
2005-06	2,722,094
2006-07	2,894,499
2007-08	3,525,037

[1] British Museum, Geffrye Museum, Horniman Museum, Imperial War Museum, Museum of London, Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester, National Gallery, National Maritime Museum, National Museums Liverpool, National Museum of Science and Industry, National Portrait Gallery, Natural History Museum, Royal Armouries, Sir John Soane's Museum, Tate Gallery, Tyne and Wear Museums Service, Victoria and Albert Museum and Wallace Collection.

National Lottery: Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much Heritage Lottery funding was provided to each of the principal seaside towns in England and Wales from the inception of the Heritage Lottery to date, listed in descending order of amount of funding. [262995]

Barbara Follett: The Heritage Lottery Fund was founded in 1994. The Heritage Lottery Fund has advised that Heritage Lottery funding as provided to each of the principal seaside towns in England and Wales since that date is as follows.

HLF funding for principal seaside towns in England and Wales since 1994

Town	Total value of project (£)
Barry	1,446,161
Bognor Regis	1,866,292
Bridlington	307,521
Burnham-on-Sea	439,731
Clacton-on-Sea	601,270
Dawlish/Teignmouth	587,368

HLF funding for principal seaside towns in England and Wales since 1994

Town	Total value of project (£)
Deal	355,866
Eastbourne	2,789,531
Exmouth	95,709
Falmouth	22,171,173
Folkestone/Hythe	4,921,621
Great Yarmouth	6,865,010
(Greater) Blackpool	7,933,638
(Greater) Bournemouth	3,774,209
(Greater) Brighton	14,023,150
(Greater) Worthing	2,324,665
Hastings/Bexhill	8,838,763
Ilfracombe	1,537,824
Isle of Wight[1]	6,755,735
Llandudno/Colwyn Bay	2,691,304
Lowestoft	5,605,289
Minehead	1,091,431
Morecambe	365,624
Newquay	135,960
Penzance	7,576,752
Porthcawl	103,743
Rhyl/Prestatyn	2,854,951
Scarborough	3,890,353
Sidmouth	1,335,159
Skegness	1,883,154
Southend-on-Sea	1,851,142
Southport	5,917,842
St. Ives	781,309
Swanage	3,395,728
Thanet[2]	7,492,243
Torbay[3]	9,783,519
Weston-Super-Mare	2,402,646
Weymouth	2,948,901
Whitby	10,586,503
Whitley Bay	492,117
Whitstable/Herne Bay	4,033,126
Grand total	164,854,032

[1] Includes only the resorts of Cowes, Ryde, Sandown, Shanklin and Ventnor
[2] Includes only the resorts of Broadstairs, Margate, Ramsgate and Westgate
[3] Includes only the resorts of Brixham, Paignton and Torquay

Playing Fields: Private Sector

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many playing fields owned by private companies there are; and how many such fields have closed in the last 10 years. [261437]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 6 March 2009]:* Sport England has advised that as of January 2009 Active Places data show private companies own 391 sites containing 901 (grass) pitches.

At present, Active Places, which was set up in 2004, does not capture historical data on the number of fields owned by private companies which have closed in the last 10 years.

Sport England are in the process of collecting further data on public and privately owned facilities, including closures where possible, and hope to conclude that work by the end of 2009.

Sports: Anti-Semitism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to tackle anti-Semitism in *(a)* football and *(b)* other sports; what recent representations he has received on the issue; what recent meetings he has had with the Football Association on the issue; and if he will make a statement. [259047]

Mr. Sutcliffe: While I have received no recent representations or held any recent meetings on the issue of tackling anti-Semitism in sport, I remain fully committed to a sporting landscape free from all forms of discrimination. To this end:

(a) Football treats anti-Semitism as an offence under the ground regulations, thereby empowering the clubs and police to take action if abuse occurs. The Football Association also provides funding for the Kick It Out campaign, which tackles anti-Semitism and other forms of discrimination through the Equality Standard for professional clubs. In addition, the Football Association also jointly hosted a seminar on Tackling Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in April 2008, and the subsequently convened working group will report its findings to the FA board in April 2009.

(b) Other sports receiving Government funding through Sport England and UK Sport for the 2009-13 period will do so on the basis of their compliance with the Equality Standard for Sport. The standard forbids discrimination on the grounds of gender, marital status, race, colour, religion, disability, age, occupation, religion or political opinion.

Swimming

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what provision for water safety will be included in the Free Swimming Programme; and if he will make a statement. [264538]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Free Swimming Programme will be delivered in pools owned by participating local authorities, on Health and Safety Executive-enforced premises. All operators are required to carry out a suitable and sufficient risk assessment of their operations and to identify necessary control measures. The Health and Safety Executive supplies extensive guidance to help them do this.

Tourism

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 9 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1556W on Tourism, on which dates the Minister for Tourism met heads of Tourism in the nine regional development agencies in the last 12 months. [257022]

Barbara Follett: I met the South West Regional Development Agency Chair on 8 January 2009 and 11 December 2008. A meeting with all the regional development agency tourism leads has been arranged for April 2009.

Tourism: South West

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding his Department has provided in respect of the tourism responsibilities of the South West Regional Development Agency in 2008-09. [264366]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 18 March 2009]*: In the financial year 2008-09 DCMS allocated £3.5 million to regional development agencies for tourism. The South West of England Regional Development Agency have advised that their allocation was £403,000.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Security

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what his most recent assessment is of the security situation in Northern Ireland. [263874]

Paul Goggins: The level of threat from dissident republicans, as evidenced by attacks at Antrim and Craigavon, continues to be assessed as "Severe". These are reckless and callous individuals who are seeking to drag Northern Ireland back to the misery of the past. The people of all communities are united in demonstrating that they will not be allowed to succeed.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Housing

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the cost of the Special Purchase for Evacuated Dwellings scheme for police officers in Northern Ireland in 2008-09. [263183]

Paul Goggins: The Scheme for the Purchase of Evacuated Dwellings (SPED) is a matter for the devolved administration.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Occupational Health

Dr. Gibson: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if the Commission will assess the adequacy of provision of occupational health and welfare services in the House for *(a)* hon. Members and their staff and *(b)* civil servants who work on the Parliamentary Estate. [264099]

Nick Harvey: The Safety, Health and Wellbeing Service provides a comprehensive occupational health service to hon. Members, Peers, and staff employed by both Houses. Hon. Members are entitled to regular health screening on request and can also self-refer for a consultation with the occupational health adviser or physician, if they believe that their work is having a detrimental effect on their health. There is also an emergency GP service available locally to Members. Given that the House is not the employer of Members' staff, it does not routinely provide occupational health services to them. The Parliamentary Welfare Service is aimed at staff of both Houses and does not formally provide welfare services for Members or their staff; but Members and their staff can ask for informal advice and guidance on the best way to deal with issues of concern. There is no provision for occupational health and welfare services for any civil servants who work on the Parliamentary Estate, as they have adequate access via their own employer.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Leader of the House how many questions tabled to each Department for written answer on a named day were *(a)* answered with a holding answer, *(b)* answered on the named day, *(c)* answered later than the named day and *(d)* not answered in each of the last four years; how many questions tabled to each Department for ordinary written answer were (i) answered within two weeks of tabling, (ii) answered more than two weeks after tabling and (iii) not answered in each such year; and what the (A) average and (B) maximum time taken by each Department to answer such questions was in each such year. [264432]

Chris Bryant: The information that the hon. Member has requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The statistics for written parliamentary questions tabled to the Leader of the House of Commons for the past four Sessions are detailed in the table.

Session	*Percentage of named day questions answered on the specified day*	*Percentage of ordinary written answered within five working days*	*Average number of sitting days to answer ordinary written questions*
2004-05	100 (14 of 14)	97 (38 of 39)	2.9
2005-06	100 (72 of 72)	100 (189 of 189)	2.8
2006-07	100 (40 of 40)	99 (163 of 165)	2.7
2007-08	100 (40 of 40)	99.5 (201 of 202)	2.9

DEFENCE

Departmental Manpower

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* permanent, *(b)* agency and *(c)* temporary staff on contracts of (i) up to three months, (ii) between three and six months, (iii) between six and 12 months and (iv) 12 months or more there are in each directorate of his Department. [264313]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The figures for civilian staff, excluding Trading Funds and Locally Employed Civilians, are as follows (at 17 March 2009):

Permanent staff by top level budget (TLB)

	Number
Air Command	8,685
Central	16,885
Chief of Joint Operations	343
Commander-in-Chief Fleet	2,396
Defence Equipment and Support	17,114
Defence Estates	2,707

Permanent staff by top level budget (TLB)

	Number
Land Forces	16,437
Science Innovation and Technology	332
Total	64,899

Agency staff by TLB

	Number
Air Command	572
Central	274
Chief of Joint Operations	162
Commander-in-Chief Fleet	74
Defence Equipment and Support	438
Defence Estates	204
Land Forces	210
Science Innovation Technology	32
Total	1,966

Temporary staff by TLB

		Number
Air Command	0-3 months	0
	3-6 months	1
	6-12 months	113
	12 months plus	44
TLB Sub-Total		158
Central	0-3 months	0
	3-6 months	1
	6-12 months	54
	12 months plus	112
TLB Sub-Total		167
Chief of Joint Operations	0-3 months	0
	3-6 months	0
	6-12 months	1
	12 months plus	10
TLB Sub-Total		11
Commander in Chief Fleet	0-3 months	0
	3-6 months	0
	6-12 months	16
	12 months plus	29
TLB Sub-Total		45
Defence Equipment and Support	0-3 months	2
	3-6 months	22
	6-12 months	84
	12 months plus	55
TLB Sub-Total		163
Defence Estates	0-3 months	0
	3-6 months	0
	6-12 months	16
	12 months plus	8
TLB Sub-Total		24

Temporary staff by TLB

		Number
Land Forces	0-3 months	2
	3-6 months	6
	6-12 months	206
	12 months plus	492
TLB Sub-Total		706
Science Innovation Technology	0-3 months	0
	3-6 months	0
	6-12 months	1
	12 months plus	1
TLB Sub-Total		2
Grand Total		1,276

These figures are derived from the Department's central system, and it is possible that some engagement of agency staff (who are not employees) may not be recorded where arrangements have been made locally.

USA: Military Alliances

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Lewes of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 71W, on USA: military alliances, on what date and at which location the next Stocktake meeting between the Government and the US administration under the 1958 Mutual Defence Agreement will take place. [265154]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Arrangements have not been finalised but it is intended that the next Stocktake meeting will take place in early June in the UK.

Welsh Language

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost of translation services under his Department's Welsh language scheme was in 2008. [263029]

Mr. Kevan Jones: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations were received from the Welsh Language Board during his Department's consultation on its Welsh language scheme. [263030]

Mr. Kevan Jones: We received no representations from the Welsh Language Board during the public consultation on the Welsh Language Scheme. However, during the process of updating the scheme, officials from MOD and the Welsh Language Board met on several occasions as well as having regular exchanges of correspondence.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Apprentices

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer of 13 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 616W, on apprentices, what progress his Department has made towards meeting its share of the Government's commitment to employ over 1,000 apprentices in central Government departments and agencies in 2008-09; and how many apprentices his Department now employs. [256256]

Jonathan Shaw: In reply to the questions asked, I refer to the Government Skills cross-Government response recorded on 24 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 741W.

Child Benefit: Foreigners

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what checks he requires to be made on the validity of documentation supplied by non-UK EU citizens in the course of child benefit claims; [264450]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of non-UK EU citizens claiming child benefit; and how many children in respect of whom such benefit is paid are not resident in the UK. [264451]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

Any person making a claim for child benefit must provide documentary evidence of the child being claimed for, such as an original birth certificate, adoption certificate or passport. HMRC checks the validity of this document upon receipt. All claims for child benefit are subject to a wide range of checks throughout the life of each claim and it would be inappropriate to disclose a complete list of such checks as to do so may provide assistance to those attempting to defraud the system. Claims by EU migrant workers to family benefits in the UK (child benefit and child tax credit) are subject to additional checks between HMRC and the competent authorities of the other member state on the composition of the worker's family resident in that other state and whether family benefits are in payment there.

I refer my hon. Friend to my reply to him of 13 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 1306W, for my response to his request for estimates of receipts.

Clear

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Angus of 27 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 740W, on public relations companies, what payments have been made to the communications consultancy, Clear, since March 2006; for what projects; and at what cost. [250315]

Jonathan Shaw: According to our records, no such payments have been made.

Cycling

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to implement Cycle to Work schemes for staff working in his Department and its agencies. [263932]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department now has in place arrangements to make financial support available to staff working in the Department and its agencies who wish to cycle to work.

These arrangements make it possible for staff to purchase a cycle and the necessary safety equipment through a salary advance scheme. This arrangement can provide an interest-free advance of their salary so they can purchase the cycle and safety equipment of their choice. In addition staff can also use the Department's staff benefits scheme, which provides the opportunity for staff to purchase the cycle and safety equipment at a significant discount from a choice of three retail outlets.

These arrangements are comparable to Cycle to Work schemes being operated in a number of organisations and are also viewed as being of better value in support of the Department's staff who wish to cycle to work.

Departmental Car Allowances

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what mileage allowance *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its executive agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies pays per mile to its staff. [263558]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 13 March 2009]:* There are a range of mileage allowances available to staff in DWP, its executive agencies and non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) who undertake business travel. The rate of mileage allowance payable will depend on the type of vehicle being used and whether the vehicle is privately owned or provided by the Department. The rates are based on the rates set by HMRC under the Approved Mileage Allowance Payments.

Mileage rates paid by DWP and all associated NDPBs

	£ per mile
Privately-owned vehicle	
Higher standard rate (up to 6,000 miles)	0.40
Lower standard rate (over 6000 miles)	0.25
Vehicle provided by DWP	
Private user scheme—petrol	0.15
Private user scheme—diesel	0.13
Private user scheme—LPG	0.08
Motor cycle	0.24
Passenger supplement (per passenger)	0.02
Pedal cycle	0.20
Candidates for civil service posts—motor cars	0.25
Candidates for civil service posts—motor cycles	0.24

In addition, DWP will only pay the higher standard rate to the first 1,000 miles unless the employee has an approved business case, in which case the higher standard rate is paid up to 6,000 miles.

The Pensions Protection Fund, Independent Living Fund and Health and Safety Executive pay at the above rates with the exception that the higher standard rate is paid for the first 10,000 miles.

Remploy pay the higher standard rate for the first 4,000 miles and the lower standard rate for any mileage above 4,000. Company car users receive £0.20 per mile regardless of total mileage.

Departmental Scientists

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department's budget for scientific advice and research is in 2008-09; for what purposes the equivalent budget for 2007-08 was used; and how many people employed in his Department have a science or engineering degree. [260767]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department does not undertake research into science, technology, engineering or mathematics as usually defined. The only advice which partly requires scientific input comes from the Industrial Injuries Advisory Council. Its budget for 2008-09 was £70,932; it has been similarly funded by DWP and predecessor Departments since its creation in 1948. The secretariat includes one post for which a scientific degree qualification is required. No information is held on other people employed in the Department with a science or engineering degree as it is not a requirement for holding other posts.

Discrimination: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 436W, on discrimination: disabled, which stakeholders he held meetings with; when each meeting was held; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of each meeting. [254962]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* I met with a number of stakeholders at the largest consultation event, which was held in London on 11 December. I provided an introduction to the event and answered questions from the floor.

My officials held four consultation events, three in London and one in Edinburgh. The London events were held on 4, 11 and 15 December; the Edinburgh event was held on 9 December. Stakeholders were invited to attend and the consultation events were also publicised through the Office for Disability Issues website, the Office for Disability Issues newsletter (which reaches approximately 2,000 people), and via charities who raised the profile of the consultation through their own emails and websites. Following is a list which gives a selection of organisations which attendees came from. Notes were taken at each event and a summary will be included in the Government's response to the consultation, which is currently being prepared. A copy of the response will be placed in the Library on publication.

Informal meetings between officials and stakeholder groups have also taken place. Those stakeholder organisations with which informal discussions were held included the Equality and Human Rights Commission and the Disabilities Charity Consortium (DCC). The DCC is an informal coalition of charities made up of Leonard Cheshire Disability, Mencap, Mind, RNIB, RNID, RADAR, Scope, The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association and Sense. Minutes of these meetings were not taken due to their informal nature.

Alzheimer's Society
British Dyslexia Association
Cheshire Constabulary
Disability Voice Bromley
Equality 2025
Equality and Human Rights Commission
Guide Dogs for the Blind Association
Hearing Dogs for Deaf People
Independent
Leonard Cheshire Disability
London borough of Ealing
London borough of Hounslow
National AIDS Trust
National Deaf Children's Society
National Housing Federation
Public and Commercial Services Union
RADAR
Spinal Injuries Association
Techmobility
Trade Union Disability Alliance
UNISON
Unite The Union
IDS Employment Law Brief
Discrimination Law Association
Russell Jones and Walker
Wandsworth and Merton Law Centre
Addleshaw Goddard
Coventry Law Centre
The Law Society
Disability Law Service
Skill
One Essex Court Chambers
Birmingham Law Centre
London Probation
KPMG UK LLP
Goldsmiths, University of London
Future Inclusion
National Landlords Association
Employers' Forum on Disability
Disability Forward Limited
CBI

Health Professions: Manpower

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with the Secretaries of State for Health, Children Schools and Families and Innovation, Universities and Skills on workforce planning for the allied health professions. [263614]

Jonathan Shaw: Ministers and civil servants meet many people as part of the process of policy development and advice. It is not the usual practice of Government to disclose details of such meetings.

Housing Benefit

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in each constituency have received housing benefit based on local reference rents in each of the last four years. [265352]

Kitty Ussher: Housing benefit information is not available at constituency level.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have claimed incapacity benefit in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since 1997. [263832]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is in the following table.

Number of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants in each year since August 1997

	Great Britain	*North East Government office region*	*South Tyneside local authority*	*Jarrow parliamentary constituency*
August				
1997	2,829,000	196,000	12,200	5,800
1998	2,759,900	186,600	11,500	5,700
1999	2,721,500	185,240	11,600	6,080
2000	2,745,460	185,790	11,520	5,940
2001	2,794,330	189,050	11,680	6,070
2002	2,800,130	188,710	11,760	6,090
2003	2,807,290	187,160	11,430	5,930
2004	2,804,980	182,790	11,020	5,680
2005	2,755,460	176,190	10,550	5,450
2006	2,712,850	170,250	10,320	5,290
2007	2,671,210	163,600	10,020	5,120
2008	2,620,420	156,290	9,540	4,810

Note: 100 per cent. figures are rounded to the nearest 10, 5 per cent. figures are rounded to the nearest 100 and have been uprated to be consistent with Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study data. *Source:* Data pre-1999: Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5 per cent. sample and Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study data. Data from 1999 onwards: Department for Work and Pensions Information Directorate 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Performing Arts

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has engaged any *(a)* actors, *(b)* musicians and *(c)* other performers to support its initiatives over the last five years. [264052]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department and its agencies have engaged actors, musicians or other performers from time to time, however details of any such engagements are not collated centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Christmas

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) whether it is the Cabinet Office's policy to offer staff *(a)* additional leave entitlement for Christmas shopping and *(b)* Christmas bonus payments; [262802]

(2) whether it is the policy of the Prime Minister's Office to offer staff *(a)* additional leave entitlement for Christmas shopping and *(b)* Christmas bonus payments. [262819]

Mr. Watson: No.

Crime Prevention: Internet

James Brokenshire: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what assessment he has made of levels of public awareness of the Get Safe On-line website; what assessment he has made of the website's effectiveness in reducing levels of online crime; and how much he plans to spend on promoting awareness of the website in 2009-10; [264032]

(2) if he will make potential threat information received from the National Fraud Reporting Centre available on the Get Safe On-line website. [264033]

Mr. Watson: Get Safe Online is a joint public and private sector initiative to raise awareness of internet safety. Its work includes not only a website but community events, educational publicity campaigns, roundtable discussions and conferences as well as general PR and marketing activity to reach a broad audience and help inform general internet users of how to go online safely and with confidence. Research carried out in November 2008 showed that 22 per cent. of people were spontaneously aware of Get Safe Online. www.getsafeonline.org currently has over 291,000 links on the Internet compared to its US counterpart www.staysafeonline.info which has 11,000 links. The research also highlights an improvement in steps people are taking to prevent themselves falling victim to online crime such as a decrease in the number of people opening e-mail attachments from unknown sources and an increase in those updating their software, although it is difficult to directly attribute this to the campaign activity.

The Cabinet Office has sponsored Get Safe Online for the past four financial years. Budgets for 2009-10 are yet to be determined in relation to my Department's sponsorship of Get Safe Online. Get Safe Online has agreed to promote relevant internet fraud alerts from the National Fraud Reporting Centre.

Death

Anne Milton: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many death certificates included the words *(a)* smoking, *(b)* knife injuries, *(c)* obesity, *(d)* anorexia, *(e)* bulimia and *(f)* influenza in the cause of death section in each of the last five years; [264116]

(2) how many death certificates included the words *(a)* legionnaires' disease, *(b)* self-harm, *(c)* cataract, *(d)* tuberculosis, *(e)* measles, *(f)* mumps and (g) rubella in the cause of death section in each of the last five years. [264117]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent questions asking:

1) How many death certificates included *(a)* smoking, *(b)* knife, *(c)* overweight, *(d)* anorexia, *(e)* bulimia and *(f)* influenza in the cause of death section in each of the last five years. (264116)

2) How many death certificates included *(a)* Legionnaires' disease, *(b)* self-harm, *(c)* cataract, *(d)* tuberculosis, *(e)* measles, *(f)* mumps and *(g)* rubella in the cause of death section m each of the last five years. (264117)

The accurate reporting of deaths by specific causes depends on the complete recording of all relevant causes of death by medical practitioners and coroners. Medical practitioners are required to complete the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death (MCCD) to the best of their knowledge and belief. Internationally accepted guidance from the World Health Organisation requires only those conditions that contributed directly to death to be recorded, and medical practitioners and coroners are not supposed to record all of the diseases or conditions present at or before death. Whether a condition contributed is a matter for their clinical judgment. The MCCD is not designed to collect information on risk factors or exposures related to the development of disease, such as smoking behaviour.

The tables attached provide the number of deaths where:

1) *(a)* Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of tobacco (b) contact with sharp object, *(c)* obesity, *(d)* anorexia nervosa, *(e)* bulimia nervosa, *(f)* influenza, or

2) *(a)* Legionnaires' disease, *(b)* intentional self-harm, *(c)* cataract, *(d)* tuberculosis, *(e)* measles, *(f)* mumps and *(g)* rubella were mentioned on the death certificate, in England and Wales, for 2003 to 2007 (the latest year available).

The number of deaths due to (1) (a) mental and behavioural disorders due to use of tobacco is not the same as the number of deaths attributable to smoking. The cause of death recorded in the great majority of cases where smoking was a causal factor would be the specific disease, such as lung cancer or ischaemic heart disease, which led to death.

Although there are codes for contact, assault and intentional self-harm by sharp object, there are no specific codes for 'knife', so these figures are likely to exceed the actual number of deaths involving (1) (b) knives.

Figures for (2) (b) self-harm are likely to be an underestimate, as they exclude any deaths where intent could not be ascertained. These figures do not correspond directly to the statistics published by ONS on suicides.

Table 1. Deaths where certain named causes were mentioned on the death certificate[1], England and Wales[2], 2003-07[3]

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of tobacco	676	622	614	719	596
Contact with sharp object	160	182	171	164	160
Obesity	888	901	993	1,150	1,203
Anorexia nervosa	26	19	30	35	29
Bulimia nervosa	3	3	3	3	5
Influenza	80	51	57	25	37
Legionnaires' disease	30	38	24	37	38
Intentional self-harm	3,286	3,453	3,316	3,332	3,165
Cataract	19	11	15	15	9
Tuberculosis	641	606	627	633	561
Measles	3	5	0	2	1
Mumps	4	2	1	2	1
Rubella	1	0	0	0	0

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). The specific causes of death categorised in Table 1, and their corresponding ICD-10 codes, are shown in the box below. Deaths were included where one of these causes was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate.
[2] Figures for England and Wales include deaths of non-residents.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Box 1. Causes of death codes used—International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)

Cause of death	*ICD-10 code(s)*
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of tobacco	F17
Contact with sharp object	X78, X99, Y28
Obesity	E66
Anorexia nervosa	F50.0, F50.1
Bulimia nervosa	F50.2
Influenza	J10-J11
Legionnaires' disease	A48.1
Intentional self-harm	X60-X84
Cataract	H25-H26
Tuberculosis	A15-A19
Measles	B05
Mumps	B26
Rubella	B06

Departmental Internet

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many members of staff *(a)* employed by the Cabinet Office and *(b)* seconded from other departments have responsibility for the Real Help Now website. [259747]

Mr. Byrne: The Real Help Now website brings together information about the range of support available during the economic downturn and makes it easier for people and businesses to access that support.

The development work on the website took less than two weeks and was overseen by the existing Cabinet Office website team, supported by one member of staff on part-time secondment from another government department. One member of the Cabinet Office web team has ongoing responsibility for updates to the website as part of their existing duties.

Departmental Reorganisation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what change there will be as a result of the restructuring of the Cabinet Office Communications Directorate in *(a)* the number of the directorate's staff and *(b)* the directorate's aggregate staff wage bill. [258712]

Mr. Watson: The overall staff costs are not anticipated to increase due to changes in the grading of staff. The reorganisation will deliver substantial efficiency savings and will reduce the overall cost of the unit by approximately £500,000.

The current funded number of staff is 41 full time equivalents, which include four staff provided by the Central Office of Information on a repayment basis. The current plans for restructuring Cabinet Office Communications will see the overall number rise to 45.5 FTE.

The restructuring of Cabinet Office Communications is intended to better align staff resources with the Department's objectives.

Electoral Register: Northern Ireland

Chris Ruane: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many and what proportion of people were registered to vote in each local authority area in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years. [264186]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your question asking how many and what proportion of people were registered to vote in each local authority area in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years. (264186)

Table 1 shows the number of people who were registered to vote in Local Government elections for each District in Northern Ireland for 1998 to 2007. Table 2 shows the number of people who were registered to vote as a proportion of the resident population aged 18 and over for the same years. The latest year for which estimates of the usually resident population are available by Local Authority is mid-2007.

These proportions should not be interpreted as registration rates as not everyone who is usually resident is entitled to vote, people who have more than one address may register in more than one place and electoral registration officers vary in how quickly they remove people from the registers after they have moved away from an area or died.

Table 1: Number of people registered to vote in local government elections in each district in Northern Ireland, 1998 to 2007

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Antrim	31,981	32,379	32,440	32,159	28,215	28,857	27,620	31,589	29,808	31,658
Ards	52,492	53,097	53,569	53,272	48,875	48,561	47,388	52,373	49,231	51,167
Armagh	37,735	38,019	38,135	38,065	35,685	36,257	35,672	39,187	37,184	39,179
Ballymena	42,906	43,010	43,212	43,210	40,191	40,310	39,860	43,350	40,427	42,635
Ballymoney	18,453	18,686	18,914	19,139	18,248	18,392	18,420	20,291	19,170	20,379
Banbridge	28,646	29,149	29,511	29,652	27,899	28,279	27,947	30,731	29,207	30,690
Belfast	190,972	188,921	186,440	181,224	153,870	153,063	144,567	166,483	147,246	158,425
Carrickfergus	26,468	26,606	26,911	26,599	24,014	24,237	23,278	26,050	24,620	25,595
Castlereagh	48,795	48,667	48,361	47,648	42,851	42,367	40,878	44,707	41,387	42,864
Coleraine	38,349	38,570	38,437	38,114	35,087	34,782	34,148	37,425	34,737	36,154
Cookstown	22,590	22,681	22,577	22,687	21,547	21,668	21,150	23,538	21,802	23,347
Craigavon	55,120	55,494	55,737	55,560	51,670	52,104	51,500	56,707	53,950	56,586
Derry	68,322	69,456	69,521	68,790	61,677	61,586	60,012	68,454	61,840	66,422
Down	43,200	43,704	44,025	44,082	40,895	41,068	40,284	44,597	41,783	44,248
Dungannon	33,841	34,150	34,235	34,385	32,121	32,220	31,353	35,040	32,800	34,668
Fermanagh	40,823	41,198	41,275	41,360	39,067	39,482	38,387	42,739	40,169	42,258
Larne	22,645	22,834	22,813	22,362	20,303	20,234	19,814	21,978	20,723	21,472
Limavady	20,506	20,691	20,833	20,935	19,569	19,800	19,507	21,361	19,762	20,825
Lisburn	74,043	74,298	74,327	73,505	65,617	65,177	64,816	72,914	67,699	72,180
Magherafelt	27,012	27,359	27,479	27,538	26,399	26,769	26,218	28,665	27,095	28,656
Moyle	10,972	11,095	11,077	11,044	10,211	10,394	10,297	11,399	10,553	11,159
Newry and Mourne	59,506	60,142	60,561	60,637	55,045	55,848	54,829	61,790	57,389	61,342
Newtownabbey	56,977	57,402	57,490	56,909	50,720	51,211	48,905	54,774	51,141	53,193
North Down	55,446	55,492	55,263	54,873	49,484	49,276	47,734	52,994	49,282	51,501
Omagh	32,356	32,629	32,713	32,441	30,767	30,697	29,232	33,322	30,744	32,934
Strabane	26,241	26,599	26,716	26,526	24,622	24,615	23,855	26,575	24,542	26,154

Source:
Electoral Office for Northern Ireland.

Table 2: Number of people registered to vote in local government elections in each district in Northern Ireland as a proportion of the resident population aged 18, 1998 to 2007[1]

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Antrim	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Ards	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.9
Armagh	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.9
Ballymena	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Ballymoney	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Banbridge	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Belfast	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.8
Carrickfergus	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8
Castlereagh	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8
Coleraine	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8
Cookstown	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Craigavon	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.9
Derry	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8
Down	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.9
Dungannon	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Fermanagh	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.9
Lame	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.9
Limavady	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8
Lisburn	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.9

Table 2: Number of people registered to vote in local government elections in each district in Northern Ireland as a proportion of the resident population aged 18, 1998 to 2007[1]

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Magherafelt	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Moyle	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.9
Newry and Mourne	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
Newtownabbey	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8
North Down	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8
Omagh	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.9
Strabane	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9

[1] The proportions have been calculated using the mid-year population estimates for local authorities in Northern Ireland of those age 18 and above, and the number of people registered to vote in local government elections on 1 December.

Source:

Electoral Office for Northern Ireland and Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency.

Government Departments: Information and Communications Technology

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many and what proportion of new Government IT software procurements have been of *(a)* open source and *(b)* proprietary software (i) in total and (ii) in each department in each year since 2004; and if he will make a statement; [264154]

(2) how many and what proportion of Government IT systems used *(a)* open source and *(b)* proprietary software (i) in total and (ii) in each department as at the end of each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [264155]

Mr. Watson: Details of individual software procurements across Government and of software used in individual Government IT systems are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Higher Civil Servants: Retirement

Gregory Barker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which permanent secretaries will reach standard retirement age in the next five years. [255040]

Mr. Watson: Of permanent secretaries in post as at 30 September 2008, three will reach the age of 65 (the mandatory retirement age for senior Civil Servants) on or before 6 February 2014.

Ministers: Domestic Visits

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many visits have been made by Cabinet Ministers to each English region in the last 12 months. [264977]

Mr. Watson: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Official Residences

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether any former Minister occupies a ministerial residence. [262770]

Mr. Watson: No former Ministers occupy an official residence.

Project Scope

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the cost of Project Scope was on the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [265058]

Mr. Watson: In respect of information requested concerning the costs associated with the SCOPE programme, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Beaconsfield (Mr. Grieve) on 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 360-1W.

Public Sector: Public Consultation

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library a copy of the background data for the Delivery Index provided by IPSOS MORI to the Cabinet Office on the public's attitude to and experience of public services relating to the last four quarters. [249963]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office does not routinely receive any additional Delivery Index data from IPSOS Mori beyond that available on their website; the underlying data can be found here:

http://ipsosmori.com/content/government-delivery-index9.ashx

Copies have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Unemployment: Young People

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many people aged between 16 and 24 years were unemployed in *(a)* Braintree constituency, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England in each year since 1997; [264443]

(2) what proportion of those claiming jobseeker's allowance in *(a)* Braintree constituency, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England were female in each of the last five years. [264445]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated March 2009:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions asking how many people aged 16-24 were unemployed in (a) Braintree constituency (b) Essex and (c) England in each year since 1997; and what proportion of those

claiming Jobseeker's allowance in (a) Braintree constituency (b) Essex and (c) England were female in each of the last 5 years. (264443, 264445)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles unemployment statistics for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) and its predecessor the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Table 1 shows the number of people aged 16-24, resident in Braintree constituency, Essex and England who were unemployed in each year since 1997. Estimates for Braintree parliamentary constituency and for Essex, for the majority of the periods requested, can be derived from APS and annual LFS at the level of geography requested. However, due to the small sample sizes at this level of detail, the estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes and have not been provided.

Estimates for July 2007 to June 2008 have also been provided as this is the most recent for which figures are available.

Table 2 shows the percentage of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance who were female in January of each of the last five years for the geographies requested.

Table 1: Number of unemployed persons aged 16-24 resident in Braintree constituency, Essex and England

12 months ending:	*Essex*	*Thousand England*
February 1998	—	504
February 1999	—	468
February 2000	—	448
February 2001	—	435
February 2002	—	417
February 2003	14	449
February 2004	—	455
March 2005	—	460
March 2006	—	522
March 2007	—	564
March 2008	—	553
June 2008[1]	***14	*563

'—' = Figures are disclosive or statistically unreliable.

[1] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates. See Guide to Quality below.

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness

* 0 = CV<5 Estimates are considered precise

** 5 = CV <10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise

*** 10 = CV <20 Estimates are considered acceptable

**** CV 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

Source:

Annual Population Survey/Annual Labour Force Survey

Table 2: Percentage of persons claiming jobseeker's allowance who were female

As at January each year	*Braintree*	*Essex*	*Percentage England*
2004	33	29	25
2005	31	29	26
2006	32	29	26
2007	30	29	27
2008	32	30	27
2009	28	28	26

Source:

Jobcentre Plus administrative data

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will include information on *(a)* counselling and *(b)* possible alternatives to abortion on the National Health Service webpage entitled Abortion: know your options; and if he will make a statement. [264613]

Dawn Primarolo: The NHS Choices web page 'Abortion: know your options' at:

www.nhs.uk/Livewell/Sexualhealth/Pages/AbortionyouroptionsAspx

does include information on counselling. It includes links to several sources of further information, including pages from the Family Planning Association's website which cover both counselling and alternatives to abortion at:

www.fpa.org.uk/Information/Readourinformationbooklets/Pregnantanddontknowwhattodo

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the rate of admissions for alcohol-related incidents per 1,000 admissions for 18 to 21 year-olds was for *(a)* university hospitals, *(b)* other hospitals and *(c)* all hospitals in each of the last 10 years. [264150]

Dawn Primarolo: Data for all hospitals on the rate of alcohol-related finished hospital admissions per 1,000 admissions in England for 18 to 21-year-olds are set out in the following table. The data are only available for the period 2002-03 to 2007-08.

Data by university and non-university hospitals are not available.

Finished alcohol-related admissions of patients aged 18 to 21, England 2002-03 to 2007-08

	Alcohol-related admissions of patients aged 18 to 21	*Admissions of patients aged 18 to 21*	*Rate of alcohol-related admissions of patients aged 18 to 21 per 1,000 admissions of patients aged 18 to 21*
2002-03	13,207	408,782	32
2003-04	15,188	422,802	36
2004-05	17,243	441,861	39
2005-06	19,524	470,296	42
2006-07	21,758	478,128	46
2007-08	23,054	494,483	47

The number of alcohol-related admissions is based on the methodology developed by the North West Public Health Observatory (NWPHO). Following international best practice, the NWPHO methodology includes a wide range of diseases and injuries in which alcohol plays a part and estimates the proportion of cases that are attributable to the consumption of alcohol. Details of the conditions and associated proportions can be found in the report Jones et al. (2008) Alcohol-attributable fractions for England: Alcohol-attributable mortality and hospital admissions.

Cancer: Surgery

Christopher Fraser: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS trusts performed *(a)* between one and nine, *(b)* between 10 and 39 and *(c)* over 40 cancer-related (i) prostatectomies and (ii) cystectomies in 2007-08. [263987]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. A table which shows the count of finished consultant episodes for cancer-related prostatectomy, cystectomy and cystoprostatectomy in 2007-08 by trust has been placed in the Library.

Children: Health Services

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will make it his policy to provide timely, high quality and effective care in the home for children with long-term complex health needs; and if he will make a statement; [263959]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to provide packages which co-ordinate health, social care and education to meet the needs of children with long-term complex health needs and their families; and if he will make it his policy to improve co-ordination between hospital and community services; [263960]

(3) if he will increase the funding his Department provides for community children's nurses to work specifically with children with long-term complex health needs; and if he will make a statement. [263961]

Ann Keen: Both the Child Health Strategy, 'Healthy Lives, Brighter Future', published recently a copy of which has been placed in the Library, and the 'National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services', published in 2004, have reiterated our policy of providing coordinated support, as close to home as possible, for children with complex health needs and their families. A copy of the framework has already been placed in the Library. The Children's Continuing Care Framework, which we hope to launch at the end of May, will provide local partners with the tools to provide tailor made packages of care, involving health, social care and education components. We are taking forward a discrete project looking at the benefits and opportunities arising from investment in community children's nursing services.

Dentistry: Registration

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what meetings Ministers in his Department have had with the General Dental Council on the annual registration fee for dental care professionals in the last 12 months; [264394]

(2) what evidence his Department evaluated prior to its endorsement of the General Dental Council's annual fee registration requirement. [264396]

Ann Keen: The General Dental Council is responsible for setting its fees and the Department has no role in the approval or endorsement of these fees.

There have been no meetings about registration fees for dental care professionals in the past 12 months between the Department's Ministers and the General Dental Council.

Dentistry: Training

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the efficacy of the requirement on (i) dentists and (ii) other dental care professionals to undertake continuing professional development; and if he will make a statement. [264393]

Ann Keen: The General Dental Council (GDC) has introduced a requirement for dentists and dental care professionals to undertake regular continuing professional development (CPD) to maintain their registration. We have not commissioned research in respect of CPD, but we expect the GDC's requirement to develop into a revalidation scheme where by health professionals would be required to keep up to date with advances in medical and dental science. The White Paper Trust Assurance and Safety—The Regulation of Health Professionals in the 21st Century stated:

"In the traditional system for regulating health professionals, once people had qualified and demonstrated that they were fit to practise with patients, their names were placed on the relevant professional register and remained there unless a definite reason came to light for their removal. Public and professional opinion has moved on in the course of this debate, from a position where trust alone was sufficient guarantee of fitness to practise, to one where that trust needs to be underpinned by objective assurance. Public opinion surveys suggest that people expect health professionals to participate in the revalidation of their registration and that many believe this takes place every year."

Departmental Publications

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many articles appearing in healthcare publications and journals in the last five years have been funded in whole or in part by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies. [264447]

Mr. Bradshaw: To identify the number of articles appearing in healthcare publications and journals in the last five years that have been funded in whole or in part by the Department and its agencies would incur a disproportionate cost.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have spent on articles appearing in healthcare publications in the last five years. [264449]

Mr. Bradshaw: To identify the amount of expenditure by the Department and its agencies on articles appearing in healthcare publications and journals in the last five years would incur a disproportionate cost.

Food: Contamination

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many contaminated food incidents have been reported in each year since 1997. [263899]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of reported food-borne outbreaks of infectious intestinal disease in England and Wales (1997 to 2007) is provided in the following table.

	Number of food-borne outbreaks[1]
1997	256
1998	152
1999	130
2000	133
2001	109
2002	92
2003	87
2004	74
2005	89
2006	86
2007	49
Total	1,257

[1] Data include food-borne outbreaks caused by Salmonella, Campylobacter, E. coli 0157, Clostridium perfringens, Staphylococcus aureus, Cryptosporidium, Bacillus spp., Giardia lamblia, norovirus, astrovirus and scombrotoxin. Data include all settings, including all restaurant premises, hotels, shops, residential, schools, hospitals and private establishments. *Source:* Health Protection Agency (Centre for Infections).

Human Papilloma Virus

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will commission research into the effectiveness of implementing human papilloma virus testing as a follow-up test for women with borderline and abnormal smear test results and following treatment for cervical abnormalities; and if he will make a statement; [263047]

(2) if he will increase *(a)* the amount of funding available for the human papilloma virus sentinel sites implementation project and *(b)* the number of areas in which triage testing will be made available. [263048]

Ann Keen: Work on the implementation phase of human papilloma virus (HPV) triage for women with borderline and low-grade abnormalities using HPV testing has begun in six sentinel sites. Decisions on expenditure, further roll-out and evaluation will be made once the results from these sites are known at the end of December 2009.

Influenza: Vaccination

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of people over 60 years who received a vaccination against influenza in 2007-08. [263127]

Dawn Primarolo: Uptake of the influenza vaccine is collected for those aged 65 and over and those aged under 65 in a clinical at risk group. The Department is unable to provide a figure for the proportion of people aged over 60 years who received the vaccine.

In 2007-08, 73.5 per cent. of people aged 65 and over received the influenza vaccine.

These figures only cover those who received the vaccine as part of the national health service influenza programme. It does not cover those who receive the vaccine privately.

Khat

Mr. Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* evaluated, *(b)* commissioned and *(c)* undertaken on the effects on health of the regular use of khat. [264004]

Dawn Primarolo: In March 2005 the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) was asked by the then Home Office Minister, my right hon. Friend the Member for Don Valley (Caroline Flint) to assess the extent of the harm posed by khat use in the United Kingdom, to the individual, their communities and to society as a whole.

The ACMD reported in January 2006 and continues to monitor the situation in relation to khat through its Technical Committee.

Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust

Mr. Cash: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the findings of the report of the Healthcare Commission on the Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust; and if he will make a statement. [264838]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the oral statement given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health on 18 March 2008, *Official Report*, columns 909-11.

Multiple Sclerosis: Research

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on research into multiple sclerosis in each of the last 10 years. [264403]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Expenditure on multiple sclerosis research

	Department of Health	*£ million Medical Research Council*
1998-99	0.6	n/a
1999-2000	0.5	n/a
2000-01	0.5	1.5
2001-02	0.6	2.1
2002-03	0.1	1.8
2003-04	0.1	1.1
2004-05	0.1	1.4
2005-06	0.8	1.9
2006-07	0.01	3.1
2007-08	0.8	3.6

n/a = Not available

The departmental figures relate to national research programme and, from 2007-08, National Institute for Health Research expenditure. They do not include expenditure in the areas of human health concerned from the research and development allocations made annually over the last 10 years to national health service providers. That information is not held centrally.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support biomedical research. The MRC is an independent body funded by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Illsley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to publish the National Programme Budgeting Data for 2007-08. [264367]

Mr. Bradshaw: The 2007-08 programme budgeting data are being checked prior to their publication shortly on the Department's website.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans he has to ensure that trusts which are receiving funding at a level *(a)* 1 to 5 per cent. and *(b)* more than 5 per cent. (i) above and (ii) below target funding are (A) appropriately supported and (B) where underfunded, compensated for being underfunded; [265433]

(2) at what rate trusts which have NHS funding *(a)* 1 to 5 per cent. and *(b)* over 5 per cent. (i) above and (ii) below target funding will be brought towards target funding over the next five financial years; and if he will make a statement. [265434]

Mr. Bradshaw: Primary care trusts' (PCTs) target revenue allocations are made on the basis of a fair funding formula, recommended by the independent Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation, that directs funding towards areas of greatest need.

We are committed to moving all PCTs towards their target allocations as quickly as possible, but this must be balanced with the need to ensure that all PCTs are appropriately supported with stable funding that both supports existing commitments and allows long-term planning, as well as recognising the unavoidable cost pressures that all PCTs face.

The allocations for 2009-10 and 2010-11 achieve this by ensuring that:

average PCT growth is 5.5 per cent. each year;

minimum growth is 5.2 per cent. in 2009-10 and 5.1 per cent. in 2010-11;

no PCT will be more than 6.2 per cent. under target by the end of 2010-11; and

no PCT will move further under target as a result of above average population growth in 2010-11.

Further, we have ensured that the most under-target PCTs will benefit from the highest increases in funding. At the start of 2009-10, the most under-target PCT will be 10.6 per cent. below its target allocation. Over the next two years, that PCTs' allocation will grow by more than 17 per cent. and it will end 2010-11 only 6.2 per cent. below target. This is a significant achievement by historic standards: in 2003-04, the most under-target PCT was 22 per cent. below target.

The rate at which PCTs will move towards their target allocation in future years will need to be considered in light of a number of factors including population changes, cost pressures and the resources available to the national health service.

Compensation for PCTs that have received under-target allocations in the past would be difficult to determine as targets vary over time. It would effectively mean re-opening those allocation rounds, which would undermine stability of NHS funding and so long-term planning. Further, it could be funded only by reducing resources for other PCTs, which may result in painful cuts to services.

Smoking: Yorkshire and the Humber

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of treating smoking-related diseases in *(a)* Barnsley and *(b)* Doncaster in each of the last five years. [264547]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available centrally.

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people in *(a)* Barnsley and *(b)* Doncaster have received assistance from the NHS to stop smoking in each of the last five years. [264548]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not available in the format requested. However, data on the number of people setting a quit date and successfully quitting through the National Health Service Stop Smoking Services are available for Barnsley primary care trust (PCT) and Doncaster PCT in 2006-07 and 2007-08 and for Barnsley PCT, Doncaster Central PCT, Doncaster East PCT and Doncaster West PCT for 2004-05 to 2006-07.

Information for 2007-08 is available from the annual Statistics on "NHS Stop Smoking Services in England, April 2007 to March 2008". This information can be found in table 3.5 on page 28.

Information for 2006-07 is available for both the old and new strategic health authority (SHA) and PCT from the annual Statistics on "NHS Stop Smoking Services in England, April 2006 to March 2007". This information can be found in table 2.12 (old SHA and PCT configuration) and table 5.4 (new SHA and PCT configuration) on pages 19 and 65 respectively.

Information for 2005-06 is available for both the old SHA and PCTs from the annual Statistics on "NHS Stop Smoking Services in England, April 2005 to March 2006". This information can be found in table 4.12 on page 38.

Information for 2004-05 is available for both the old SHA and PCTs from the annual "Statistics on NHS Stop Smoking Services in England, April 2004 to March 2005". This information can be found in table 19 on page 54.

All of the publications have already been placed in the Library.

Notes:

1. The Information Centre for health and social care collects data from the NHS Stop Smoking Services as part of the NHS Stop Smoking Services quarterly monitoring returns forms, undertaken since 2005 on behalf of the Department.

2. On the basis that the clinical viewpoint tends to be that a client should not be counted as a 'failure' if he/she has smoked in the difficult first days after the quit date, a client is counted as having successfully quit smoking if he/she has not smoked at all since two weeks after the quit date. The four-week follow-up (and Carbon Monoxide (CO) validation, if appropriate) must be completed within six weeks of the quit date. Persons not contacted within this time are treated as lost to follow-up for evaluation purposes.

3. Only people who set a quit date through the NHS Stop Smoking Services are included in the quarterly monitoring returns, those who attend the service but do not set a quit date are not included.

Strokes: Health Services

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made towards ensuring that patients with suspected trans ischaemic attacks are scanned with magnetic resonance imaging within 24 hours as referred to in the National Stroke Strategy. [263464]

Ann Keen: High quality imaging of the brain and blood vessels is a key part of a successful stroke service and the Department issued 'Implementing the National Stroke Strategy—an imaging guide' in May 2008 to support local improvement. A copy has been placed in the Library. The 2008 National Sentinel Stroke Audit notes that providing access to magnetic resonance imaging within 24 hours to high risk patients will require a major reorganisation of imaging facilities. The Stroke Improvement Programme (part of NHS Improvement) has been established to support providers and commissioners in implementing the necessary changes to achieve these standards.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Anti-Semitism

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which Minister signed the Final Declaration of the London conference on combating anti-Semitism; and if he will make a statement. [264676]

Gillian Merron: My right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary signed the London Declaration on combating anti-Semitism in their capacity as parliamentarians.

The London Declaration was signed by 125 parliamentarians from 40 countries.

The Government are committed to combating anti-Semitism wherever and whenever it occurs.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 41W, on anti-Semitism, what steps the Government plans to take to monitor and tackle anti-Semitism overseas; and if he will make a statement. [264677]

Gillian Merron: The recent London Conference on combating anti-Semitism, organised by the Inter-parliamentary Coalition for Combating Anti-Semitism and co-hosted by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, called for the establishment of an international task-force of internet specialists to measure racism and anti-Semitism online and propose international responses.

It also called for the exposure and isolation of governments and politicians engaging in hate against Jews, and urged the EU to address the issue of combating anti-Semitism.

We will work with the Inter-parliamentary Coalition and other partners on follow-up to the London Conference.

Brasilia

Mr. Heathcoat-Amory: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many visits were made by Ministers to Brasilia in the financial year 2007-08. [264568]

Gillian Merron: Our records indicate that in the period running from the 1 April 2007 to the 31 March 2008, there were four visits by Government Ministers to Brasilia. These were the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Secretary of State for Transport, the Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and the Secretary of State for Health.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his Department's policy is on the renewal of the contracts of *(a)* temporary and *(b)* agency staff. [264301]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)'s policy on the renewal of temporary contracts follows the Civil Service Commissioners Recruitment Code. Information can be found on their website:

http://www.civilservicecommissioners.org/Reference_Documents/Recruitment_Code_Reference/

The use and renewal of temporary agency staff is devolved to FCO directorates. They use agency staff when there is a pressing short-term operational need and there are no permanent members of staff available. There is central internal guidance available to directorates on using temporary agency staff.

Exercise

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what methodology his Department uses to assess progress towards the target of getting two million people more active by 2012; on which date such assessment began; to which age groups the target is applied; on what basis a person may be classified as more active; and whether the target is applied to people with *(a)* mental health problems, *(b)* physical disabilities and *(c)* learning disabilities. [264437]

Dawn Primarolo: I have been asked to reply.

The Government's 2012 legacy action plan, published in June 2008, sets a cross-Government target to get two million more adults active through sport and physical activity by 2012. The Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS) and Sport England lead on getting one million people doing more sport. A range of Government Departments will deliver programmes that will increase wider physical activity. These programmes are outlined in the Department of Health's new Physical Activity Plan "Be Active, Be Healthy" published on 11 February 2009. A copy has been placed in the Library.

Sport England's Active People survey will be the measure for the two million target. The baseline for the target will be established using the 2007-08 Active People

survey, the results of which were published on 11 December 2008. The target is based on those adults aged 16 and over achieving three sessions of at least 30 minutes of at least moderate intensity activity per week. The target will also be informed by additional data collected on dance, active conservation and gardening from January 2009. A newly established Physical Activity Programme Board, chaired jointly by the Department and DCMS, will oversee the delivery of programmes against the Legacy Action Plan (LAP) target.

The LAP target applies to all adults aged over 16 and "Be Active, Be Healthy" recognises that people with disabilities, ranging from physical and neurological to sensory impairments and learning disabilities are at particular risk from inactivity.

Kenya: Elections

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the government of Kenya on the role of the International Criminal Court in investigations of post-election violence in Kenya. [264591]

Gillian Merron *[holding answer 19 March 2009]:* The Government have made clear, both privately and publicly through the media, their support for the recommendations made by the independent Commission of Inquiry into Post-Election Violence. The creation of a Special Tribunal to prosecute those responsible for the violence will be an important step in efforts to end impunity and foster healing and reconciliation in Kenya.

Our support for a local independent tribunal is in line with the views of Kofi Annan, the Inquiry's recommendations and the Kenyan government's adoption of the recommendations. Such a tribunal, with an international prosecutor and judges and strong witness protection systems, could help rebuild confidence in Kenya's judiciary and would be a good route to justice for the victims of that violence, and to stopping it from re-occurring. The International Criminal Court in The Hague is another route for seeking justice and would be an alternative option if the creation of a local tribunal failed. But a local solution would be of greater benefit to Kenya in the long term.

Our high commissioner to Kenya has discussed this subject with Kenyan ministers, including the President and Prime Minister, and with MPs and civil society groups.

Redundancy

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs with reference to the Answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1208-10W, on redundancy, how many staff left his Department under staff exit schemes with a severance package worth *(a)* between £100,000 and £125,000, *(b)* between £125,001 and £150,000, *(c)* between £150,001 and £200,000, *(d)* between £200,001 and £250,000, *(e)* between £250,001 and £500,000, *(f)* between £500,001 and £1,000,000 and *(g)* over £1,000,000 in each year since 2005-06. [264300]

Gillian Merron: My answer of 25 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1208-10W, provided a breakdown of total lifetime costs to the Department of early retirements between April 2005 and March 2009. The figures do not represent the value of sums received by staff, which will be lower.

The number of early retirement settlements over the past four years broken down into the categories listed above according to lifetime cost to the Department is:

(a) 30
(b) 23
(c) 46
(d) 29
(e) 63
(f) 2
(g) 0

Torture

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will establish a judicial inquiry into allegations of UK complicity in torture overseas and extraordinary rendition. [263763]

David Miliband *[holding answer 17 March 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister's statement of 18 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 55WS, in which he addressed these allegations and outlined the steps being taken in response to them.

UN World Conference against Racism

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of the decision of the Italian government to withdraw from the United Nations Durban 2 conference; and if he will make a statement. [264330]

Gillian Merron: Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini announced on 5 March 2009 that Italy would not participate in negotiations on the draft outcome document for the Durban Review Conference.

Italy would, however, continue to follow the process and reconsider its position if EU red lines were respected.

The Government have on several occasions expressed its view on the Durban Review Conference, the follow-up to the 2001 World Conference Against Racism. We want the conference to forge a collective will to fight against racism in all its forms, in all countries in the world. It should not be seen as an opportunity to press unrelated political interests and issues.

Mr. Ames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the withdrawal of governments from the United Nations Durban 2 Conference; and if he will make a statement. [264675]

Gillian Merron: Canada and Israel have formally withdrawn from the Durban Review Conference. The United States and Italy announced that they would not take part in negotiations on the draft document that was under negotiation, and set conditions for their re-engagement.

This document has now been superseded by an updated version, which was issued on 17 March 2009.

The Government have expressed a consistent view on the Durban Review Conference. We want the conference to forge a collective will to fight against racism in all its forms, in all parts of the world. It should not be seen as an opportunity to press unrelated political interests and issues.

Zimbabwe: Sequestration of Assets

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make an assessment of the merits of seizing overseas assets of the Zimbabwean Government in order to pay the pensions of former employees of the Southern Rhodesian Government and other Zimbabwean pensioners. [264598]

Gillian Merron: The Government do not consider seizure of the overseas assets of the Government of Zimbabwe an appropriate means of obtaining funds for the payment of pensions of former employees of the Southern Rhodesian Government and other Zimbabwean pensioners. We continue to make representation to the Government of Zimbabwe reminding them of their legal obligations to meet pension liabilities.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children: Social Services

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the projected expenditure on the integrated children's system is in each of the next five years. [264873]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The planned expenditure on the Integrated Children's System (ICS) for 2009-10 is £8.7 million. This consists of £5 million for capital grants to local authorities and £3.7 million to cover project costs. ICS investment beyond 2009-10 will be subject to the outcomes of the 2009 Spending Review. Our plans will be informed by the conclusions of the feasibility study of ICS recommended by Lord Laming in his report earlier this month on progress on the protection of children in England.

Children's Centres

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many new Sure Start children's centres are planned by local authorities to be completed between January 2009 and March 2010. [264942]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Local authorities are responsible for planning and delivering their Sure Start Children's Centre programmes so that by March 2010 there will be at least 3,500 centres offering access to services for all children under five and their families. The Department's delivery partner, Together for Children, is working with authorities to support them in finalising and delivering their plans for the final phase of the roll-out of centres. The exact number of centres to be delivered between January 2009 and March 2010 is therefore subject to change as local authorities confirm their plans. At 23 February 2009 there were 2,925 designated Sure Start Children's Centres. Local authorities are on track to meet the target for 3,500 centres by March 2010.

Grammar Schools: Kent

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils from each neighbouring council to Kent have been offered grammar school places in Kent in each of the last 10 years. [264836]

Jim Knight: As these arrangements are determined and administered locally, we do not hold data centrally on the number of pupils offered such places.

Parents: Advisory Services

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how the effectiveness of the Parent Know How programme is measured; and what assessment has been made of that effectiveness; [264943]

(2) how many people have used the Parent Know How programme websites in each quarter since they were established; [264944]

(3) how many people have used the Parent Know How *(a)* instant messaging and *(b)* SMS service in each quarter since each was established; [264945]

(4) how many calls there have been to each Parent Know How helpline in each quarter since their establishment. [264946]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: An independent evaluation of the Parent Know How programme was commissioned last year to look at the effectiveness of the telephone helpline and the pilot new services under the programme. The evaluation will support decisions we make about which of the pilot services we will continue to fund beyond June 2009. A full report will be published in the late spring.

The information requested about how many people have used the Parent Know How website, instant messaging and SMS services, and how many calls there have been to each helpline, in each quarter since the launch of the programme last year are as follows. Information about the quarter January-March 2009 will not be available until late April:

(1) Websites

Quarter	*April-June 2008*	*July-September 2008*	*October-December 2008*	*Total*
Services: Got a teenager, thecoupleconnection, Contact a Family, Dad Talk, Dad's Space, Dad's Team, One Space, Netmums, Parent Supporters	26,417	80,215	187,146	293,778

(ii) Instant messaging and SMS services:

Quarter	April-June 2008	July-September 2008	October-December 2008	Total
Instant messaging services[1]: Live Talk	0	209	289	498
SMS services: Ask ACE Relate SMS	434	489	724	1,647

1 Service launched in July 2009

(iii) Telephone helplines

Calls made to telephone helplines	April-June 2008	July-September 2008	October-December 2008	Total
Advisory Centre for Education	33,395	10,669	14,783	58,847
Children's Legal Centre	4,978	6,752	7,070	18,800
Contact a Family	4,361	6,598	4,575	15,534
Family Rights Group	6,498	5,560	4,211	16,269
Gingerbread	2,544	2,923	2,434	7,901
ParentlinePlus	47,033	40,140	39,266	126,439
YoungMinds	2,501	1,985	2,437	6,923
Total	101,310	74,627	74,776	250,713

Primary Education: Sanitation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what plans he has to issue guidance to primary schools on the design of school toilets; [264434]

(2) what guidance his Department offers primary schools who wish to redesign and rebuild their school toilets and drinking water facilities. [264435]

Jim Knight: In answer to the first question, the Department offers guidance on the design of toilets in primary schools in the following publications:

The Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999, SI No. 2 1999, state the numbers of toilets that should be provided in schools.

Building Bulletin 99 Briefing Framework for Primary School Projects outlines key issues on toilet design.

Primary Ideas, Projects to Enhance Primary School Environments includes a number of 'design principles' for toilet design.

Building Bulletin 102: Designing for Disabled Children and Children with Special Educational Needs includes guidance on accessible toilets for mainstream and special schools.

Standard Specifications, Layouts and Dimensions SSLD 3: Toilets in Schools sets out standards of performance for toilet facilities and shows how they might be delivered through design examples. The standards were developed for secondary schools and aspects of the guidance apply equally to primary schools.

In answer to the second question, the Department has no plans to issue further guidance on this subject.

The Department offers the following guidance on drinking water provision:

The Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999 (S11999 No 2), require that 'A school shall have a wholesome supply of water for domestic purposes including a supply of drinking water' (Part iv, Regulation 22).

The joint DFES/Department of Health's publication National Healthy Schools Status—a Guide for Schools 2005, recommends easy access to free clear palatable drinking water (Section 2, part 2, Healthy eating).

The Department's Building Bulletin No 87: Guidelines for Environmental Design in Schools has a section on hot and cold water supplies.

Pupils: Diabetes

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what recent assessment his Department has made of the provision of healthcare for children with diabetes in *(a)* primary schools and *(b)* secondary schools; [243012]

(2) what recent assessment his Department has made of the adequacy of provision of care for children with diabetes *(a)* in schools and *(b)* on school trips; [243014]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of children of school age whose diabetic conditions *(a)* prevent and *(b)* reduce their attendance at school; [243015]

(4) what guidance his Department provides to schools on in school healthcare for children with diabetes; [243049]

(5) what recent discussions his Department has had with the Department of Health on healthcare for children with diabetes when in school; [243051]

(6) what estimate he has made of the number of children with diabetes who were unable to participate in school trips owing to a lack of healthcare provision during such trips in the last 12 months. [243053]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: It is for schools and local authorities to support children with medical conditions at schools. The Department has issued guidance to schools to help them support their pupils. Our guidance to schools, "Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings", issued jointly with the Department of Health in 2005, specifically addresses what schools can do to support pupils with medical needs such as diabetes. It encourages schools and local authorities to develop policies on the management of pupil's medicines and on supporting pupils with medical needs, taking account of local resources and their various responsibilities. We produced sister guidance in the same year, entitled "Including me: managing complex health needs in schools and early years settings".

We are taking a number of steps to ensure that pupils with long term medical conditions have access to the help they need to enable them to attend school and participate in school activities.

In April 2007, the Department of Health published a report entitled "Making Every Young Person with Diabetes Matter", and has convened a group to support the implementation of best practice as set out in the report. The Department for Children, Schools and Families is represented on that group, and also on the sub-group set up to look specifically at support in schools.

Since September 2007 schools have a duty to promote the well-being of all pupils, including those with long

term medical conditions. This duty defines well-being as the five outcomes of Every Child Matters, including being healthy and staying safe.

Most recently, the "Child Health Strategy, Better Health: Brighter Futures", published on 12 February this year, announced that we will be revising the guidance to schools on managing medicines which will include clear statements of expectations of those involved in supporting pupils with medical conditions, such as schools and PCTs. Our intention is that this work will be done in consultation with expert organisations, such as Diabetes UK, and will be supported with an awareness raising campaign.

Teachers: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many teaching staff from Enfield local education authority area have attended the National College of School Leadership. [263917]

Jim Knight: The National College for School Leadership began recording such data centrally in 2003. Since then 547 members of school staff from the Enfield local authority have engaged with the college. 122 of these did not provide information about the nature of their role within their school and although we cannot be certain that they have a teaching role, it is likely that most of them do.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Roads

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the Government's *(a)* current and *(b)* anticipated contribution to road building and maintenance in Afghanistan is by (i) cost and (ii) manpower in each of the next three years; and whether UK armed forces will be involved on this work. [263431]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: On 3 March, I announced a £50 million increase in funding to Afghanistan, including £32 million for infrastructure projects in Helmand.

The UK currently supports the construction and maintenance of roads through the infrastructure component of the Afghan Government's Helmand Agricultural and Rural Development Programme (HARDP). The Department for International Development (DFID) contributes £30 million to support HARDP (2006-07 to 2008-09).

These programmes are delivered by the Afghan Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development in close co-ordination with the International Security Assistance Forces (which include UK forces) and Afghan military forces.

The design phase for DFID's continued support to rural development in Helmand is under way, including an impact assessment of infrastructure projects completed under HARDP. Until this assessment is completed we cannot predict what shape future support to the infrastructure sector will take.

DFID has four staff involved with the infrastructure elements of HARDP programming.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Overseas Aid

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the effects of the security situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on the delivery of humanitarian assistance in the DRC. [262739]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 11 March 2009]:* The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) remains in the grip of a severe and prolonged humanitarian crisis, with 1.2 million people displaced by conflict in the east of the country, millions remaining food insecure and vulnerable to disease and natural disasters. However, the overall security situation in eastern DRC has improved over recent months. The end of hostilities and the integration into the national army of the CNDP militia (predominantly Rwandan militia group) since January has reduced barriers to humanitarian access in large areas of North Kivu, in turn allowing aid to reach those most in need. The longer-term humanitarian impact of joint DRC and Rwandan army operations against another militia group, the FDLR (former Rwandan Hutu forces) remains uncertain and the humanitarian community remains prepared to deal with any consequences that arise.

In the north of DRC, in Province Orientale, an ongoing joint DRC/Ugandan military operation which started in December against the Ugandan Lords Resistance Army (LRA) rebels has provoked widespread reprisals against the population by the LRA. This has generated humanitarian and protection needs for the population. MONUC have increased their military presence in the area in order to mitigate the humanitarian impact.

Departmental Bank Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development with which banks his Department has or has had contracts for the provision of financial advice, for the financial year 2008-09. [262756]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not held contracts for the provision of financial advice with any banks for the financial year 2008-09.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's guidance on remuneration and terms of employment for locally-engaged staff; and if he will make a statement. [264102]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: A copy of the Department for International Development's (DFID's) local Pay Determination Guidance, together with a copy of the Minimum Employment Standards for locally engaged staff (known as Staff Appointed in Country), will be placed in the Library.

Both documents are currently under review following a recent agreement between DFID and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) to bring the pay scales and other terms and conditions of service of our respective locally engaged staff into greater alignment.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on how many occasions people his Department had formerly directly employed were retained by the Department on a consultancy basis in the last financial year for which figures are available; and how much was paid to such people in that year. [263977]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not retain a central record of contracts awarded to former DFID employees on a consultancy basis. To provide this information would incur disproportionate cost. DFID has strict rules and guidance on the engagement of former DFID employees as consultants.

Departmental Databases

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what categories of information are included on his Department's inSight system; and if he will make a statement. [265185]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development's (DFID) intranet, known as InSight, contains a wide range of information for staff. Information is grouped under the following categories:

About DFID;
Policy and strategy;
Peoplesight (HR policies, processes and systems);
Learningsight (staff learning and development);
Rules and guidance;
Travel; Office facilities;
Information Resources.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* dates of employment, *(b)* salary, *(c)* other costs of employment, *(d)* job description and *(e)* work outputs were of the temporary tester for information systems in his Department which his Department funded through Allegis Group Ltd. under procurement reference 200708220. [263723]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) contracted Allegis to provide a temporary tester from the 13 to 30 November 2007.

DFID cannot comment on the salary costs as the temporary tester was not an employee. The value of the contract was £4,690, inclusive of management service fees. There were no other costs of employment payable under this contract.

The Terms of Reference for this engagement included drafting test scripts, conducting testing and report writing for a number of projects and desktop packages.

The temporary tester produced a range of outputs which included, test scripts, documentation of test results and test reports.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* dates of employment, *(b)* salary, *(c)* other costs of employment, *(d)* job description and *(e)* work outputs of the ARIES systems accountant retained by his Department via IT Works Recruitment were. [263981]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) contracted IT Works Recruitment to provide a Systems Accountant from 6 August 2007 to 31 March 2008.

DFID cannot comment on the salary costs as the Systems Accountant was not an employee. The initial contract value was £91,450. However, the contract was reviewed after three months and it was agreed that the remainder of the work would be undertaken in-house. The actual date of the appointment was 20 August to 30 November. The total cost over this period was £25,250 plus £4,927 expenses.

The Terms of Reference for the appointment included developing coexistence procedures and error handling mechanisms between legacy systems and the new ARIES system. The Systems Accountant documented coexistence procedures, reconciliation procedures, error reporting and took investigative/corrective action to resolve data quality issues.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn, Hatfield of 10 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1879W, on the departmental internet, how many hits each of the websites maintained by his Department received in each of the last 12 months. [262838]

Mr. Michael Foster: The information requested is as follows:

Research for development (R4D) (http://www.research4development.info)

Month	*Page views*	*Unique visitors*
February 2009	41,639	26,608
January 2009	39,772	24,635
December 2008	32,646	19,895
November 2008	39,504	26,765
October 2008	34,251	20,586
September 2008	35,525	21,831
August 2008	36,429	20,576
July 2008	42,994	27,453
June 2008	34,934	20,483
May 2008	29,323	15,670
April 2008	28,008	16,315
March 2008	26,648	15,823

Developments (http://www.developments.org.uk)

Month	*Page views*	*Unique visitors*
February 2009	23,897	10,546
January 2009	23,393	10,225
December 2008	17,014	7,429
November 2008	25,358	10,405
October 2008	31,224	11,410
September 2008	21,447	8,256
August 2008	19,678	6,684

Developments (http://www.developments.org.uk)

Month	Page views	Unique visitors
July 2008	27,959	7,483
June 2008	18,535	7,387
May 2008	21,301	8,483
April 2008	28,687	9,646
March 2008	34,814	4,771

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the Answer of 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 17W, on departmental personnel, whether his Department's director of human resources is an employee of his Department; and what the *(a)* salary and *(b)* other employment costs of the director of human resources are. [263725]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The current Human Resources Director is a full-time employee of the Department for International Development (DFID). He receives a salary within the range prescribed by the Cabinet Office (£81,600 pa to £160,000 pa) for staff filling posts at director level.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 17W, on departmental personnel, for what reason his Department hired an interim human resources manager from 7 April to 31 October 2008; and if he will make a statement. [263726]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The appointment of an Interim HR Manager, using a professional agency, meant that the appointment could be made at very short notice. It provided professional leadership during a period of restructuring, and also allowed the Department time to make a permanent appointment through a high quality search and selection process.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the Answer of 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 17W, on departmental personnel, what the career background and experience of the interim human resources manager hired from 7 April to 31 October 2008 was; and if he will make a statement. [263727]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The interim human resources (HR) manager had extensive professional experience in a range of senior positions in private sector organisations, including financial services, retail and pharmaceutical companies.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* location of employment, *(b)* dates of employment, *(c)* total days worked, *(d)* salary and *(e)* other costs of employment were for the commercial development and growth specialist employed by his Department via the Enterprise Partnership Ltd. in 2007. [263973]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Commercial Development and Growth Specialist (CDGS) was not an employee of DFID. A contract for this work was awarded to Enterprise Partnership Ltd. for the period 1 May 2007 to 31 October 2008. The CDGS worked 156 days in 2007 at a cost of £65,470, which includes fees and reimbursable expenses.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* dates of employment, *(b)* salary, *(c)* other costs of employment, *(d)* job description and *(e)* work outputs of the Economic Adviser to the EC Delegation in Kigali, Rwanda funded by his Department in August 2007 were. [263974]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Economic Adviser to the EC was a consultant funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) and located in the EC Delegation Rwanda.

(a) The dates of the contract were July 2007 to December 2008.

(b) The total fees for the full 17-month contract were £103,563.

(c) Other total costs for the contract period were £23,139.

(d) The job description was to contribute to the effective implementation of EC budgetary support and related economic programmes and to the sustainable creation of capacity to manage these programmes in future.

(e) The work outputs related to budget support management, policy dialogue, economic management, and aid harmonisation.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* dates of employment, *(b)* salary, *(c)* other costs of employment, *(d)* job description and *(e)* work outputs of the project manager—DFID laptop refresh funded by his Department in August 2007 were. [263975]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) contracted Allegis to provide a project manager for the Laptop Refresh project from 6 August 2007 to the 31 March 2008.

DFID cannot comment on salary costs as the project manager was not an employee. The value of the contract was £72,000 plus £5,000 expenses.

The Terms of Reference for this engagement included management of the project to replace DFID's existing laptops.

The project manager produced standard project management documentation which included project brief, project initiation document, project plan and regular progress reports. Other outputs included a fully tested laptop that represented value for money.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* dates of employment, *(b)* salary, *(c)* other costs of employment, *(d)* job description and *(e)* work outputs of the Business Analyst 2007 funded by his Department via Allegis Group Ltd. in August 2007 were. [263976]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) contracted Allegis to provide an interim Business Analyst from 13 August 2007 to 30 September 2008.

DFID cannot comment on salary costs as the Business Analyst was not an employee. The initial contract value was £46,750. A further extension took the total value to

£105,226 inclusive of management service fees. There were no other costs of employment payable under this contract.

The Terms of Reference for this engagement included business analysis, benefits realisation, information needs analysis, business process definition, requirements capture and promotion of industry best practice.

The Business Analyst produced a range of outputs which included Requirements documentation, Use Case and Workflow Diagrams, Test Scripts and associated project management documentation.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* dates of employment, *(b)* salary, *(c)* other cost of employment, *(d)* job description and *(e)* work outputs of Alexander Bohr were for the duration of the funding by the Department of his work on information on EU development assistance in Nicaragua. [263986]

Mr. Michael Foster: Mr. Bohr was contracted by the Department for International Development (DFID) for the period 15 September 2007 to 2 May 2008 to carry out work on the project titled "Information on EU Development Assistance". The total cost of this contract was £46,229. The key objectives were to produce an EU Blue Book, accompanying CD Rom and an interactive, online tool to collect data on EU development assistance.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many *(a)* permanent, *(b)* agency and *(c)* temporary staff on contracts of (i) up to three months, (ii) between three and six months, (iii) between six and 12 months and (iv) 12 months or more there are in each directorate of his Department. [264298]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Details of staff employment at the Department for International Development are published in the Department's Annual Report which is available in the Library of the House and online:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* location of, *(b)* dates of, *(c)* purpose of, *(d)* number of visitors to and *(e)* total cost of his Department's Health and Education Advisers retreat funded via HLSP Ltd in February 2007 was. [263972]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development's (DFID) 2007 Health and Education Advisers retreat was:

(a) held at the Robinson Executive Centre, Wyboston Lakes, Wyboston, Bedfordshire;

(b) it took place from 6 to 9 February 2007;

(c) the retreat brought together DFID health and education advisers, and development academics, for professional development and to agree forward policy and operational priorities in health, education and HIV/AIDS, including in relation to DFID's 2006 White Paper "Eliminating world poverty: making governance work for the poor";

(d) there were approximately 85 attendees and 17 speakers and guests;

(e) and the total costs that were funded via HLSP were £57,700

Departmental Pay

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the Answer of 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 17W, on departmental personnel, how many of his Department's staff received remuneration, including bonuses, of more than £100,000 in 2007-08. [263887]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development paid nine members of staff more than £100,000 (including non-consolidated performance pay) in 2007-08.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on *(a)* economy class flights, *(b)* business class flights, *(c)* first class flights, *(d)* accommodation and *(e)* other expenses for (i) Ministers and (ii) officials to attend the Accra High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in September 2008. [264103]

Mr. Michael Foster: The cost of one Minister and 10 officials attending the Accra High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in September 2008 was £50,072. This comprises:

	£
Business class flights	44,484
Accommodation	3,035
Other expenses	2,553

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on *(a)* leasing, *(b)* procurement, *(c)* maintenance and *(d)* running costs of its cars in Uganda in the last financial year for which figures are available. [264104]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In 2007-08, the Department for International Development's (DFID) expenditure on its official vehicle fleet in Uganda was as follows:

	£
Leasing	Nil
Procurement	19,692
Maintenance and running costs	14,641

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* salary costs and *(b)* other employment costs of drivers engaged by his Department in Uganda were in the last financial year for which figures are available. [264105]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In 2007-08, the Department for International Development's (DFID) expenditure in Uganda for drivers was as follows:

	£
Salary costs (including overtime)	26,000
Other employment costs	6,000

Departmental Recruitment

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the Answer of 10 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 1879W, on departmental recruitment, what estimate he has made of the annual salary cost of *(a)* permanent, *(b)* temporary and *(c)* agency staff recruited by his Department in each year since 2005-06. [264296]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not maintain central records of estimates made in respect of salary costs for newly recruited staff.

Each director within DFID has delegated authority to manage their staff resources, together with any associated pay and related costs.

Prior to the recruitment of any new member of staff (permanent, temporary or agency), the director is required to make an assessment of the cost of the appointment and to confirm they have sufficient funds available within their divisional budget.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's policy is on the renewal of the contracts of *(a)* temporary and *(b)* agency staff. [264297]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development's policy on the renewal of temporary (fixed term) or agency contracts is that neither may be renewed without clear justification. All contract renewals must be authorised at senior management level and approved by Human Resources Division.

GlobeScan Incorporated

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the nature was of the services provided to his Department by GlobeScan Incorporated in respect of consultations on its research strategy for 2008 to 2013 procured under reference 200707940; if he will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* his Department's contract with GlobeScan Incorporated, *(b)* the commissioning document for the exercise and *(c)* the result of the consultation; and if he will make a statement. [263722]

Mr. Michael Foster: GlobeScan Incorporated were contracted to undertake the Asia consultations which informed the DFID Research Strategy 2008-13. A copy of the Terms of Reference (commissioning document) will be placed in the Library. The contract is a commercial in confidence document. The results of the consultation are available on the DFID Research portal R4D:

www.research4development.info

Guyana: Rainforests

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding the Government has provided to Guyana for rainforest conservation in each of the last three years; what funding will be provided in 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [264073]

Mr. Michael Foster: In the past year (2008-09), DFID has committed £313,000 to work by Guyana on a low carbon investment prospectus and implementation plan, including a costing of conserving Guyana's rainforests. No funds were provided to Guyana for rainforest protection in the previous two years. No decisions have yet been taken on funding for rainforest protection in Guyana in 2009-10.

Guyana is also a participant in the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Fund (to which the UK has contributed £15 million) and recently submitted its Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation Readiness Plan. Guyana is included in the Caribbean Regional Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change, and may also be part of the Caribbean Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience (part of the Climate Investment Funds to which the UK is contributing £250 million). DFID officials regularly discuss forest protection with their Guyanese counterparts.

Malaria

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has allocated to research on malaria in each of the last five years; how much has been allocated for these purposes in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [263497]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: For each of the last five years the Department for International Development (DFID)has allocated the following amounts for malaria-specific research:

	£ million
2003-04	2.35
2004-05	1.8
2005-06	1.7
2006-07	5
2007-08	3

To date for 2008-09 £3 million has been allocated to research on malaria.

DFID also funds other programmes that include malaria research, but where it is not possible to disaggregate the amounts spent on malaria.

Malawi: Overseas Aid

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the purpose was of the media training provided by the Reuters Foundation and funded by his Department in Malawi in October 2007; who received the training; and what the nature of the training was. [263789]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: 13 members of staff in the Department for International Development's (DFID) Malawi office received training on the 22 and 23 October 2007. The training was part of a wider programme designed to enable DFID's staff to improve the delivery of programme support in Malawi. The workshops focused on how DFID, as the largest bilateral donor in Malawi, could better engage with the media to influence and advance development policy debate.

Opin Systems

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will place in the Library a copy of the contract between his Department and Opin Systems for a production Oracle database administrator procured by his Department under reference 200708132. [263788]

Mr. Michael Foster: A redacted copy of the contract between DFID and Opin systems for an Oracle database administrator, will be placed in the Library. The redacted copy is the original version of the contract minus schedule 5, which contains pricing information that we regard as commercial in confidence information. All other sections of the contract have been provided without amendment.

Overseas Aid

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much assistance his Department provided to *(a)* China, *(b)* Zimbabwe, *(c)* Pakistan and *(d)* Burma in each of the last 10 years. [264200]

Mr. Michael Foster: Details on the UK's bilateral expenditure and imputed share of multilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA) are contained in the DFID publication "Statistics on International Development". This publication is available from the Library and online at www.dfid.gov.uk. Relevant figures are produced in the following table.

GPEX and ODA imputed multilateral share, 1998-99 to 2007-08

£000

	China		Zimbabwe		Pakistan		Burma	
	GPEX	*Imputed multilateral*	*GPEX*	*Imputed multilateral*	*GPEX*	*Imputed multilateral*	*GPEX*	*Imputed multilateral*
1998-99	39,190	18,860	29,377	10,020	26 937	21,175	795	206
1999-2000	26,246	3,249	17,464	2,075	23 472	2,105	559	103
2002-01	56,002	2,641	16,230	4,230	15 890	3,072	1,393	540
2001-02	50,266	5,128	17,390	3,429	44 838	25,623	2,279	1,067
2002-03	44,386	3,436	32,746	4,533	46 852	39,756	7,020	2,497
2003-04	42,406	2,772	36,006	2,010	66,299	14,787	3,720	1,435
2004-05	42,476	16,527	27,355	4,062	55,278	15,091	6,008	3,376
2005-06	36,854	5,507	35,376	5,463	97,688	58,671	6,483	3,625
2006-07	60,086	15,870	34,096	7,329	118,150	22,675	7,610	3,140
2007-08	83,743	7,390	46,660	7,894	88,145	58,547	8,915	7,195

Pakistan

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* purpose of, *(b)* duration of and *(c)* number of participants in the study tour on social protection in Pakistan funded by his Department via the Economic Policy Research Institute in March 2007 was. [263971]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development funded a study tour to South Africa, for 13 government of Pakistan officials between 25 February and 4 March 2007, to review South Africa's social protection programmes. The purpose of the visit was to allow the officials, working on social protection programmes in Pakistan to see at first hand, how programmes of this type have been designed and implemented in a country which has a recognised and effective social protection system. The tour was organised by South Africa's Economic Policy Research Institute and included a field visit to Soweto.

Following the visit, Pakistan finalised a national social protection strategy, which was published as government policy in the middle of 2007. This strategy is now being used as the framework for rolling out wider social protection programmes in Pakistan. These include the Benazir Income Support Programme, which is now one of the cornerstones of the government's efforts to protect poor people, especially in the current period of economic instability.

Pakistan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with his Pakistani counterpart on the distribution of aid to that country. [264774]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development's (DFID) Country Plan for Pakistan, which the Secretary of State launched in July 2008 during his visit to Pakistan, sets out how we will distribute UK aid to Pakistan over the five-year period 2008-13. The plan was discussed in detail with the Government as it was being prepared and the Secretary of State personally discussed details with Pakistan's Minister of Finance at the time of the launch. The priorities set out in the plan are to give people access to better health and education, make government more effective, make growth work for everyone, and ensure the international community works better together.

The Country Plan builds on the 10-year Development Partnership Arrangement which the Prime Ministers of the UK and Pakistan signed in November 2006 which increases UK aid to £480 million over the period 2008-11. Since the launch, high level partnership talks have been held between DFID's Director General for Regional Programmes and Pakistan's Minister for Economic Affairs.

The Country Plan is available on the DFID website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/pakistan-CAP-08.pdf

Performing Arts

John Mason: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department has engaged any *(a)* actors, *(b)* musicians and *(c)* other performers to support its initiatives over the last five years. [264062]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has engaged actors, musicians and other performers as part of its development programme work in the United Kingdom and overseas. Information on activities involving such performers is not held centrally and it would incur disproportionate costs to disaggregate particular activities from programme budgets.

Public Opinion

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead (Mike Penning) of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 328-32W, on public opinion, if he will place in the Library a copy of each document held by his Department relating to each of the opinion polls and focus groups listed in the answer. [264624]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) will place copies of those documents which are on record relating to the focus groups and opinion polls detailed in the answer to the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead of 10 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 328-32W, in the Library of the House.

Much of the material requested is already available on the DFID website at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/aboutdfid/factbook/opinion.asp

TRANSPORT

Biofuels: Oils

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what volume of recycled cooking oil has been used as a biofuel in each year since 2001. [263594]

Jim Fitzpatrick: HM Revenue and Customs publishes information on UK sales of biodiesel used for transport fuels in their monthly 'Hydrocarbon Oils Bulletin'. It is not possible to disaggregate recycled cooking oil from other similar oils used as biodiesels as this information is not recorded.

Under the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation which came into effect in April 2008, UK transport fuel suppliers are required to report on a monthly basis to the Renewable Fuels Agency (RFA) on matters such as the feedstock and origin of their biofuels. The RFA's January quarterly report summarises data on fuel supplied between April and October 2008. This report indicates that used cooking oil made up 3 per cent. (22 million litres) of the biofuel supplied over this period to meet the obligation. Their report is available on the RFA website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/rfa/

Borders: Personal Records

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 27 January 2009, *Official Report*, columns 279-80W, on borders: personal records, if he will place in the Library copies of the minutes of the Facilitation Stakeholders Forum of meetings at which *(a)* the e-Borders programme and *(b)* the Authority Carry Scheme were discussed. [264185]

Jim Fitzpatrick: It is not the normal practice of the Government to release details of meetings with private individuals or companies.

Cycling: Helmets

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 9-10W, on cycling: helmets, if he will publish an interim report on the merits of wearing a cycle helmet before the end of 2009. [265290]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The research project on cycling and safety is under way and is likely to be three years in duration, but as part of the initial phase of the work we are aiming to complete and publish the review of cycle helmet effectiveness by late 2009.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of his Department's staff are employed full-time to work on policy on *(a)* cycling, *(b)* public transport, *(c)* walking and *(d)* cars and roads. [265338]

Mr. Hoon: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 12 January 2009, *Official Report*, column 391W.

Driving Tests: Kidderminster

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will review the decision to close the Kidderminster Driving Test Centre in the light of new evidence made available under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [264839]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Secretary of State sees no case for reviewing the decision to close the Kidderminster test centre. The information provided in response to the Freedom of Information requests do not affect this decision.

Heathrow Airport

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Putney (Justine Greening) of 4 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1608W, on Heathrow airport, how many individual pieces of correspondence intended for the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport consultation were received from members of the public resident in Maidenhead constituency. [265092]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information is not available in the format requested. The "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport: Report on Consultation Responses" provides a breakdown of responses from members of the public only in terms of London residents inside or outside the 57dBA noise contour and UK residents outside London.

Heavy Goods Vehicles

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the proportion of heavy goods vehicles on UK roads which were registered *(a)* in the UK, *(b)* elsewhere in the EU and *(c)* outside the EU in 2007-08. [265129]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of heavy goods vehicles newly registered in Great Britain in 2007 and 2008 were as follows:

Number of heavy goods vehicles newly registered in Great Britain

	Thousand
2007	47
2008	33

The Department for Transport does not hold statistics regarding vehicle registrations outside of Great Britain.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many miles he estimates heavy goods vehicles registered *(a)* in and *(b)* outside the UK have travelled on roads in the UK in each year since 1997. [265303]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 25 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 857W.

Intercity Express Programme

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on consultants during the procurement process for the Intercity Express Programme since 2007. [262932]

Paul Clark: The Intercity Express Programme represents the most significant UK rolling stock investment ever and appropriate resources are therefore required to ensure best value is achieved both for rail passengers and taxpayers.

The Department for Transport has committed a total of £4.2 million in 2007 and £8.0 million from 2008 to end January 2009. This includes all of the project and programme management; business case; technical; financial; legal; procurement; and industry advisers required to deliver a programme valued at £7.5 billion.

Jalal Ahmed

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether Jalal Ahmed has received security clearance in respect of his employment as a baggage handler at Luton Airport; whether he has access to military aircraft; and if he will make a statement. [264350]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Personnel and physical security checks are in place for all staff working airside at UK airports, but it would be inappropriate for the detail of those checks to be placed in the public domain. A baggage handler at Luton airport would have no legitimate access to any military aircraft. We are currently reviewing personnel security measures across the transport sector in the light of the report delivered last July by Stephen Boys Smith.

Lorries: Testing

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials have had with the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency on changes to mechanisms and fees for goods vehicle testing. [264728]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 19 March 2009]:* The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) is responsible for setting and administering testing fees for goods vehicles and their operators.

Since VOSA is established as a Trading Fund it is required to set fees each year at a level to meet their outgoings. On the 6 November 2008, following discussion with Department for Transport officials and myself, VOSA issued a public consultation on changes to the level and structure of its fees for the testing of goods vehicles and operators, to come into effect in April of this year.

Discussions with the agency included analysis to ensure that:

- the proposed fees have been calculated in line with Government guidance on the setting of statutory fees;
- there was sound and appropriate assumptions upon which the agency's financial forecasts are based; and
- the proposals provide sufficient revenues to support the policies and objectives of the Department.

Following closure of the public consultation on 29 January 2009, the agency has undertaken analyses of the responses from the consultation. The agency has since held further discussion with Department officials to consider its recommendations on fees in light of responses to the consultation and of direct discussion between representatives of trade associations and Department officials.

The agency's final recommendations will be the subject of discussion with me in the next few weeks so that changes to fees can be implemented in April.

Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he is making of the merits of withdrawal of the system of statutory off-road notification; and if he will make a statement. [264872]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Statutory off road notification (SORN) is an integrated part of effective vehicle excise duty (VED) compliance. The measure of its effectiveness is in reducing the level of non-compliance. The 2008 survey of compliance showed that VED evasion is less than 1 per cent. No formal review of the merits of SORN has been undertaken and there are no plans to change the requirement.

Motor Vehicles: Safety

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many certificates of initial fitness were issued by Vehicle and Operator Services Agency in respect of imported stretch limousines in 2008. [264937]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA) has only recently introduced the capacity to record a specific vehicle type as a limousine. Previously vehicles were classed as either cars or Public Service Vehicles (PSV).

VOSA issued 19 Certificates of Initial Fitness (COIF) in 2008 for limousines. VOSA is unable to distinguish whether the vehicles were imported or not.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many public service vehicle operators' licences were issued by traffic commissioners in each area in respect of stretch limousines in *(a)* 2003 and *(b)* 2008; and how many such licences related to limousines able to carry (i) more than eight and (ii) eight or fewer passengers. [264938]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There are no records of limousine operators for 2003 as our business system does not differentiate between types of vehicles operated on a PSV licence at that time.

In recent years we have started keeping separate records for limousine operators and the information for operator licences granted in 2008 shows that 116 restricted licences and 11 standard national licences have been issued. All of these licences have limousine conditions attached and the operators applied to run vehicles with eight passenger seats or fewer.

Any operator who applied for a licence to run a limousine with more than eight passenger seats is not recorded as they are run under normal PSV regulations and these vehicles should have a COIF (Certificate of Initial Fitness).

Navigation: Republic of Ireland

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress he has made on implementation of his commitment to require the Republic of Ireland to meet the full costs of providing aids to navigation on their coast; and how much, and what percentage, of the estimated shortfall in 2009-10 in income from light dues is attributable to activities related to the cost of providing aids to navigation for the Irish Republic. [264935]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Her Majesty's Government have been reviewing the current funding arrangements for the Commissioners of Irish Lights with the Government of the Republic of Ireland. Negotiations are in progress and have resulted in agreement over the apportionment of costs between Northern Ireland and the Republic in accordance with the Evidence Review undertaken last year. Maintaining an integrated aids to navigation service around the whole of our coasts benefits both our countries. The two governments are reviewing the benefits enjoyed by each country from this integrated approach, which will inform our continuing work to ensure that a more sustainable funding solution for Irish Lights is put in place.

There is no shortfall in light dues income in 2009-10 that can be directly attributed to activities related to the cost of providing aids to navigation for the Irish Republic. However if we take no action to increase light dues, we expect a shortfall of income against expenditure for the General Lighthouse Fund of some £21 million in 2009-10. We estimate that at current exchange rates the net cost to the fund of providing aids to navigation in the Republic of Ireland for the year will be up to £13 million.

Parking: Regulation

Mrs. McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward legislative proposals for the regulation of parking on private land; and if he will make a statement. [265306]

Paul Clark: The Secretary of State for Transport has no plans at present to bring forward legislative proposals that would affect the right of the owners of private land in England to conduct parking business on that land.

Railways

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment he has made of the effects on the Scottish economy of a new dedicated high-speed rail line from London to Edinburgh or Glasgow; [263460]

Railways: West Midlands

(2) whether he has made an assessment of the effects on *(a)* UK gross domestic product and *(b)* the regional economies of (i) the North West and (ii) the North East of a new high-speed line to each of these regions. [263461]

Paul Clark: The national and regional economic effects of high speed rail were assessed in the 2003 Atkins high speed rail study, commissioned by the Strategic Rail Authority. The summary report may be accessed on the Department for Transport's website

www.dft.gov.uk

Railways: Access

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent steps his Department has taken to improve access for *(a)* people with disabilities, *(b)* the elderly and *(c)* young families with prams to trains and railway stations in the Greater Manchester area. [265189]

Paul Clark: The Government have a strong record on improving the accessibility of our railways. Over 1,100 stations have already been earmarked for access improvements through our £370 million 'Access for All' programme and around 4,900 rail vehicles already meet modern access standards. All trains must be accessible by no later than 1 January 2020.

Specifically in the Greater Manchester area:

£1.7 million has been awarded to Greater Manchester PTE, First TransPennine Express and Northern Rail, from the Access for All Small Schemes Fund, to match fund projects with a total value of £3.9 million at over 40 stations serving the Greater Manchester area. Improvements include ramps, accessible toilets, new customer information systems and a range of other access enhancements.

Hazel Grove station has new lifts installed under the Access for All main programme, with a further five stations currently at design stage and targeted to receive an accessible, obstacle free route by 2011 (Manchester Oxford Road, Cheadle Hulme, Blackburn, Marple and Leicksborough).

Virgin Trains and TransPennine Express operate fully accessible fleets of trains and Northern Rail has improved the accessibility of its fleet of rail vehicles through refurbishment.

These improvements whilst primarily aimed at improving access for disabled people, also meet the needs of other passengers including older people and those travelling with children in prams.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent steps his Department has taken to improve access for *(a)* people with disabilities, *(b)* the elderly and *(c)* young families with prams at Cheadle Hulme Station. [265190]

Paul Clark: Improving access for passengers with reduced mobility is a key objective of the Department for Transport and is central to the Railways for All strategy which was published in March 2006.

Cheadle Hulme has been targeted to receive an accessible, obstacle free route to platforms serving passenger trains under the main Access for All programme. Plans have now reached detailed design stage and Network Rail intends to start work on site during summer 2009, with completion expected during 2010.

In addition, Greater Manchester PTE has been awarded £50,000 from the Access for All fund for a £100,000 project to install a new public address system, customer help points and CCTV at Cheadle Hulme station.

Further funding for access enhancements will be available each year until 2015 and we would welcome further applications.

Railways: Greater Manchester

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many train services on average ran on each week day in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009 to date between Manchester and (i) Heald Green, (ii) Bramhall, (iii) Cheadle Hulme, (iv) Gatley, (v) Davenport, (vi) Hazel Grove and (vii) Woodsmoor; [265191]

(2) what the average journey time by train was from Manchester to *(a)* Heald Green, *(b)* Bramhall, *(c)* Cheadle Hulme, *(d)* Gatley, *(e)* Davenport, *(f)* Hazel Grove and *(g)* Woodsmoor in each year since 1997. [265192]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not hold the information at the level of detail requested. However, Network Rail is the custodian of timetable and performance data for the rail industry, and will be able to provide this information. The hon. Member should contact Network Rail's chief executive at the following address for a response to his questions:

Iain Coucher
Chief Executive
Network Rail
40 Melton Street
London
NW1 2EE.

Railways: West Midlands

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) when he expects High Speed Two Ltd. to put forward proposals for a new high speed rail line from the West Midlands to Scotland; [264882]

(2) which *(a)* cities and *(b)* counties he has asked High Speed Two Ltd to include in plans for a new high speed rail line between the West Midlands and Scotland. [264883]

Paul Clark: "High Speed Two", has been formed to help develop the case for high speed services between London and Scotland.

My noble Friend, Lord Adonis, has written to Sir David Rowlands at "High Speed Two" setting out what the Government expect of the company. A copy of this letter is available in the Libraries of the House.

As a first stage, High Speed Two will report by the end of the year with a proposed route from London to the West Midlands, setting out any necessary options, including for stations. It will also consider the potential for new lines to serve the north of England and Scotland, providing advice on the potential development of a high speed line beyond the West Midlands, at the level of broad "corridors". We have asked the company to consider in particular the potential for HS2 to extend to the conurbations of Greater Manchester, West Yorkshire, the North East and Scotland.

Renewable Energy: EC Action

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions his Department has had with the European Commission on powers to set sustainability requirements additional to the Renewable Energy Directive. [263595]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The UK Government participated in European negotiations on the Renewable Energy Directive that resulted in the inclusion of sustainability requirements relating to direct environmental impacts, and will continue to work with the European Commission, as proposals to account for indirect environmental impacts are being considered.

Member states will not be permitted to impose sustainability requirements additional to those in the Renewable Energy Directive. A provision in the directive (expected to be article 18(8) in the final published version of the directive) prohibits member states from refusing to take into account biofuels which meet the directive's sustainability requirements, on other grounds of sustainability.

Road Works

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many schemes to introduce permitting for street works his Department has introduced under the powers contained in the Traffic Management Act 2004. [264881]

Paul Clark: A number of applications to operate permit schemes under the Traffic Management Act 2004 received by the Department for Transport are currently under consideration.

Tracking the Vehicles Through the Trade

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency initiative Tracking the Vehicles Through the Trade has been implemented. [262937]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Work on the initiative was stopped in May 2007, prior to implementation. This was due to conflicting demands for development resource from higher priority initiatives.

Transport: Expenditure

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect of the £700 million brought forward for transport spending in 2009-10 on *(a)* the transport budget for 2010-11 and *(b)* transport projects planned for 2010-11. [264248]

Mr. Hoon: The £700 million fiscal stimulus package for transport, announced in the pre-Budget report, "Facing global challenges: Supporting people through difficult times" (Cm 7484), has the effect of increasing the Department's capital departmental expenditure limit (CDEL) for 2009-10 by £700 million, funded through a reduction of the same size in the CDEL for 2010-11.

In terms of the impact on transport projects previously planned for 2010-11, the effect of the fiscal stimulus package is to mean that some will start a year earlier. Some of the financial package, however, represents the earlier use than previously planned of funds that had not yet been allocated to specific projects.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Cumbria

Mr. Jamie Reed: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what assessment her Office has made of the effect of workers being employed on the Olympic village on the availability of labour for construction projects (a) in Cumbria, (b) in Copeland constituency and (c) elsewhere. [263718]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

The Department has not made an assessment of the effect of workers being employed on the Olympic village on the availability of labour for construction projects elsewhere.

ConstructionSkills, the industry Sector Skills Council, undertakes research into skills requirements and other issues to inform policy development. The Olympic village is an important construction programme, but various other projects and factors, including mobility, also impact on labour availability.

According to ConstructionSkills' most recent research around one in ten (9 per cent) of those with a permanent address in the North West are working on sites outside the region. This is half the average amount for UK/Republic of Ireland. 1 per cent of the London workforce originates from the North West.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum: Castle Point

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any asylum seekers are housed in Castle Point constituency; and what her Department's future plans are to house asylum seekers there. [263015]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave on 9 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 67W.

Further to that reply information on asylum is published annually and quarterly. Statistics for end of March 2009 will be available in May 2009 from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Asylum support accommodation is identified and provided by accommodation providers holding contracts with the UK Border Agency. It is therefore for accommodation providers within a specified region to determine where they provide specific accommodation in consultation with the local authorities and other key stakeholders. The one accommodation provider operating in Essex has confirmed that currently it has no plans to procure accommodation in the Castle Point constituency.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his Department's entertainment budget has been since its inception. [261115]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department has no entertainment budget.

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much expenditure was incurred in respect of overseas visits which *(a)* he, *(b)* other Ministers in his Department and *(c)* his Department's senior officials undertook in 2008. [262183]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department for Energy and Climate Change was not in existence in F/Y 2007-08. However, since 1999, the Government have published a list of all overseas travel by Cabinet Ministers costing over £500. Information for the financial year 2007-08 was published on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 102WS and for the first time, included details of overseas visits undertaken by all Ministers. All travel by Ministers is undertaken in accordance with the "Ministerial Code".

Electricity Generation

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what steps he is taking to encourage the distributed energy distribution network use of system charging on a cost reflective basis; [255141]

(2) what steps he is taking to encourage small suppliers of distributed energy to operate on the public electricity distribution network; [255142]

(3) what steps he is taking to reduce the burden of licensing regulation on small distributed energy operators; [255143]

(4) what steps he is taking to assist distributed energy operators to interact with the electricity system on a cost-proportionate basis; [255144]

(5) what work the Distributed Energy Working Group has undertaken; and what further work is planned. [255145]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In line with a commitment in the Energy White Paper 2007 DECC and Ofgem have agreed a set of proposals to allow larger DE schemes to become licensed suppliers operating on the public network, in a way that is proportionate to their size and impact.

The proposals are set out in a decision letter published by Ofgem on 6 February 2009. The letter includes a statutory consultation notice to implement a new standard licence condition that will mean that DE schemes do not have to be a direct party to costly and complex industry codes where they have alternative arrangements in place.

The letter also sets out guidance for the development and provision of supplier services agreements that will enable DE schemes and small suppliers to operate on the public electricity distribution network, with support from larger suppliers.

The 'Distributed Energy Working Group' was set up to advise on development of these proposals. Full details of the Group and its activity are on the Ofgem website:

www.ofgem.gov.uk

There are no plans to continue to meet with the Distributed Energy Working Group as currently constituted. Members of the group continue to be involved in the development of wider Distributed Energy and Heat policy in other fora.

Distributed Energy Consultations published by Government and Ofgem have highlighted concerns that the current charging regime for using the distribution network does not properly reflect the benefits that DE can bring. These findings have been fed into a separate and ongoing project on the structure of use of system charges. This work is led by Ofgem working with distribution network operators.

Energy: Conservation

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has issued advice to *(a)* Government Departments, *(b)* businesses and *(c)* consumers on how to increase their energy efficiency. [263736]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 16 March 2009]:* The Department provides a broad range of advice on improving energy efficiency:

(a) The Government's Delivery Plan for Sustainable Procurement and Operations on the Government Estate, published in August 2008, sets out how the Government are supporting increased energy efficiency in central Government Departments. It provides guidance on meeting carbon reduction targets, purchasing energy efficient products, and collaborative procurement opportunities.

Salix Finance Ltd. is an independent, publicly funded company set up by the Carbon Trust to accelerate public sector investment in energy efficiency technologies to improve energy efficiency and reduce energy bills.

(b) The DECC-funded Carbon Trust provides information and advice to help businesses and public sector organisations improve their energy efficiency. Advice is delivered via the Carbon Trust website, dedicated advice line, and a range of further services for organisations of different sizes.

The Government are taking steps to improve the ease with which businesses can access advice on improving their energy and resource efficiency, in particular through Business Link and through the Government's "Real Help for Business" communications campaign, which provides specific advice on how businesses can save money by improving their resource efficiency.

(c) DECC also grant funds The Energy Saving Trust (EST) to support its work reducing carbon emissions from the household sector. The EST is a non-profit organisation, which provides free, impartial advice that plays an important role in helping the Government meet their climate change targets and is a key partner in the Act on CO_2 campaign.

Through the Act on CO_2 Advice line which was launched in April 2008 and regional one-stop shop advice centres, the EST works directly with consumers to help them reduce their carbon footprint with respect to energy, waste, water and transport.

Environmental Transformation Fund

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which projects for which his Department is responsible are receiving funding from the Environmental Transformation Fund; how much each has received from the Fund since its inception; and what further projects are planned. [259357]

Joan Ruddock: The UK element of the Environmental Transformation Fund, which was formerly jointly led by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, has been led by the Department of Energy and Climate Change since its creation in autumn 2008.

There are a number of new projects under the UK Environmental Transformation Fund which are under active consideration at present—announcements will be made in due course. The most recent spend figures are as follows:

Project	*Amount spent since April 2008 (£000)*
Anaerobic Digestion Demonstration	†100
Bio-energy	1,313
Carbon Abatement Technologies	5,969
Carbon Trust funding for activities which support the development and deployment of low carbon technologies	34,400
Electricity Networks	95
Field trials and monitoring of energy saving techniques in domestic settings	394
Hydrogen Fuel Cells	947
International work	262
Low Carbon Buildings	10,645
Renewables Deployment	1,233
Renewable Energy Strategy	54
Severn Tidal Power Feasibility Studies	2,155
Support to Research, Development, Demonstration and Deployment for Emerging Energy Technologies	708
Wave and Tidal Energy	818
Wind Energy	226

† Estimate.

The £800 million Environmental Transformation Fund—International Window is jointly owned by my Department and the Department for International Development. It has been allocated by the UK to the multi-donor Climate Investment Funds.

The first instalment of funds (£100 million) is in the process of being disbursed to the Climate Investment Funds. Following the Treasury allocations at the time of the spending review, £200 million will be disbursed in 2009-10 and £500 million in 2010-11.

The Climate Investment Funds are comprised of several funds and programmes. Funding is allocated on the basis of programmatic investment plans submitted by the recipient country. The Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience Committee has invited eight countries to become pilot countries for the programme (Bangladesh, Bolivia, Cambodia, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Tajikistan and Zambia). The Clean Technology Fund Committee has also endorsed the investment plans of Egypt, Mexico and Turkey.

The funds will be administered by the World Bank with individual programmes implemented through any one of the Multilateral Development Banks. We expect UN agencies to participate as delivery agents. More information can be viewed at:

www.WorldBank.org/cif

Lighting

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many of the 100 million *(a)* free and *(b)* subsidised low-energy light bulbs which the Government undertook to provide under the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target have been distributed. [254125]

Joan Ruddock: The Government have not undertaken to distribute any particular number of low energy lamps under the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT). Energy suppliers may choose to meet their carbon saving obligation through any mix of approved measures. During the first three quarters of CERT (April to December 2008), suppliers reported to the scheme administrator, Ofgem, that they had distributed 120.6 million low energy lamps.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 12 December 2008 transferred to him from the Prime Minister on the Renewable Energy Strategy. [254710]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 9 February 2009]:* I responded to the hon. Member on 30 January.

National Home Energy Programme

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate has been made of the effectiveness of the expenditure of new money being provided by energy companies and generators under the Government's National Home Energy Programme; how many schemes have been established through use of that money; and how many *(a)* low income households and *(b)* households with elderly people received assistance from that money. [260614]

Joan Ruddock: The Home Energy Saving Programme—announced in September 2008—included proposals to increase the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) on energy suppliers and introduce a new obligation on energy suppliers and electricity generators—the Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP). The detailed proposals for the CERT amendment and the CESP are currently out to consultation. The September package also included additional Government expenditure for the Warm Front Scheme and Cold Weather Payments.

The CESP partial impact assessment published as part of that consultation has estimated that perhaps 90,000 households in low income areas can expect to be supported with energy savings measures as a result of the scheme.

The increase in CERT activity is expected to deliver something in the order of an extra £460 million worth of support for low income households and the elderly (known as the priority group). Further details are available in the CERT partial impact assessment, and can be viewed on the DECC consultation website at:

www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/consultations/open/cert/cert.aspx

Office for Renewable Energy Deployment

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the operational budget is of the Office for Renewable Energy Deployment for the 12 months following its establishment. [263393]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 16 March 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to him on 6 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1887W, regarding the budget for the Office for Renewable Energy Deployment (ORED).

The ORED's budget for 2009-10 is currently subject to the business planning round process in the Department.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* full-time and *(b)* other staff who will be employed by the Office for Renewable Energy Deployment when it has been fully established. [263394]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 16 March 2009]:* I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave to him on 6 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1887W, regarding the number of staff employed by the Office for Renewable Energy Development (ORED).

The number of staff for ORED will depend on the outcome of the business planning round process in the Department and decisions on the scope and range of activities the ORED will be asked to take forward following publication of the finalised UK Renewable Energy Strategy.

Simon Hughes: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* other staff in his Department are engaged in the establishment of the Office for Renewable Energy Deployment. [263395]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 16 March 2009]:* The Department is involving a number of its staff in the planning for the establishment of the Office for Renewable Energy Deployment (ORED). This includes a number of staff presently working on renewable energy deployment issues. While I am unable to give precise full time equivalent numbers, the Department is also providing additional resource as necessary to deal with legal, financial, human resources and media issues associated with the establishment of the office.

Trade Unions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which trade unions are recognised in his Department. [262075]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: DECC has yet to put in place a formal recognition agreement with our departmental trade unions but we are actively working to establish such an agreement. In common with many other civil service Departments and agencies it is our intent to recognise FDA, Prospect and the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS) all of which are members of the Council of Civil Service Unions.

Warm Front Scheme

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff of each grade in his Department work primarily on the Warm Front scheme. [257477]

Joan Ruddock: DECC currently has five officials who work primarily on the Warm Front Scheme. They are one senior executive officer, two higher executive officers, one executive officer and one administrative officer. In addition, other, more senior officials spend part of their time working on the scheme.

The work of these officials is supplemented by expert advice from finance, legal, procurement and contract staff.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his Department's expenditure on the Warm Front scheme has been in each month of financial year 2008-09 to date. [257479]

Joan Ruddock: The information requested can be found in the following table.

Warm front spend 2008-09

	£
April 2008	49,579,714
May 2008	59,247,634
June 2008	33,295,286
July 2008	33,377,394
August 2008	29,326,235
September 2008	25,000,989
October 2008	25,973,827
November 2008	26,362,569
December 2008	35,440,683
January 2009	32,994,210
Total	350,598,540

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which contractors are used for the delivery of the Warm Front scheme in each Government office region. [257598]

Joan Ruddock: The installers working on the Warm Front scheme in each Government office region can be seen in the following table:

Government office region	*Installer*
East Midlands	Better Plumbing Services Ltd.
	Iguana Services Ltd.
	Blue Flag Ltd.
	EAGA Social Housing Ltd.
	East Coast Gas Services Ltd.
	Heating Efficiency Systems Ltd.
	Interglow (Contracts) Ltd.
	Kershaw Contracting Services Ltd.
	KHI Ltd.
	R.G. Francis
	Mark Insulations Ltd.
	Paul Brant Plumbing and Heating
	Perry Electrical Ltd.
	Smethwick Energy Action Ltd.
	Staywarm Insulation
	Sun Realm Heating Co. Ltd.
	Westville Ltd.
	A & M Insulation (formerly JSL)
	EAGA Home Services
	EAGA Renewables Ltd.
East of England	Anglian Insulations Ltd.
	Aran Services
	Castle Point Insulation Ltd.
	Cosytop Thermal Insulations Ltd.
	Dawsetway Ltd.
	Iguana Services Ltd.
	East Coast Gas Services Ltd.
	Eastern Contracting
	Heating Efficiency Systems Ltd.
	Igloo Insulation
	Interglow (Contracts) Ltd.
	Kershaw Contracting Services Ltd.
	Lion Insulation Ltd.
	R.G. Francis
	EAGA Homes Services
	Orion Insulation And Construction Services Ltd.
	Quality Heating Services Ltd.
	R.G. Francis
	Southern Electric Contracting Ltd.
	Staywarm Insulation
	Sun Realm Heating Co. Ltd.
	West Anglia Insulation Ltd.
	EAGA Renewables Ltd.

Government office region	Installer
North East	A & N Evans Plumbing & Heating Ltd.
	Blue Flag Ltd.
	Darfield Heating Services Ltd.
	Dyson Insulations Ltd.
	R.G. Francis
	Everwarm Services Ltd.
	Fenhams Contracts
	Iguana Services Ltd.
	Karnheath Ltd.
	KNW Ltd.
	Middlesbrough Insulation Co. Ltd. T/A Heatpac
	Miller Pattison Ltd. (Bedworth)
	EAGA Homes Services
	On Tap Heating Ltd.
	The Heating Company (UK) Ltd. T/A Total Trade Services
	The Insulation Company (T.I.C.)
	UK Quality Solutions Ltd.
	EAGA Renewables Ltd.
North West	A & M Insulations Ltd. (St. Helens)
	A.K.M. Heating Ltd.
	Amara Heating Ltd.
	Amberglow Central Heating Services
	AMD Heating
	A.W. Fairhurst Ltd.
	BGC Gas Services Ltd.
	Blue Flag Ltd.
	Compass Gas Ltd.
	Complete Electrical (UK) Ltd.
	Cosyseal Insulation Ltd.
	Dane Housing (Congleton) Ltd.
	Direct Line Maintenance Services Ltd.
	Dyson Insulations Ltd.
	R.G. Francis
	East Coast Gas Services Ltd.
	Enterprise Managed Services Ltd.
	EAGA Homes Services
	Fenhams Contracts
	Gas Call Services Ltd.
	Gavin Ward Ltd.
	Glowarm DSP Ltd.
	Harland Rise Ltd.
	Heatex Quality Insulation Ltd.
	Heating Efficiency Systems Ltd.
	Heating Solutions T/A Premier Energy Solutions
	Home Insulation Services NW Ltd.
	Homecare Home Improvements
	Iguana Services Ltd.
	Insulation UK Ltd
	J M C Plumbing & Heating Ltd.
	KHI Ltd.
	Mark Insulations Ltd.
	Mellor Wakefield Ltd.
	EAGA Homes Services
	Miller Pattison Ltd. (Warrington)
	The Heating Company (UK) Ltd. T/A Total Trade Services
	The Heating Company (UK) Ltd. T/A Total Trade Services
	The Insulation Company (T.I.C.)
	UK Quality Solutions Ltd.
	Viscount Environmental Ltd.
	Warmer Heating Ltd.
	Zanet Ltd. T/A Gascare Heating
	EAGA Renewables Ltd.
South East	1A Autoheat Limited T/A Gascare
	1st Saxon—Clenmay Ltd.
	A & M Insulations Ltd. (Swindon)
	B. Bowden & Co. Ltd.
	Castle Point Insulation Ltd.
	Cosytop Thermal Insulations Ltd.
	Dawsetway Ltd.
	Downs Insulation & Electrical Ltd.
	East Coast Gas Services Ltd.
	Eastern Contracting
	Heating Efficiency Systems Ltd.
	Homewarm Ltd.
	Igloo Insulation
	Iguana Services Ltd.
	Instafoam & Fibre Ltd.
	Interglow (Contracts) Ltd.
	Kershaw Contracting Services Ltd.
	Lion Insulation Ltd.
	Mark Insulations Ltd.
	MG Heating (IW) Ltd.
	Miller Pattison Ltd. (Crawley)
	EAGA Home Services
	Orion Insulation and Construction Services Ltd.
	Quake Energy
	Quality Heating Services Ltd.
	R.G. Francis
	Southern Electric Contracting Ltd. (Sec)
	Sun Realm Heating Co. Ltd.
	Swale Heating Ltd.
	Warmerhome (Southern) Ltd.
	Warm-Space Insulation Ltd.
	Wessex Electricals (Shaftesbury) Ltd.
	West Anglia Insulation Ltd.
	EAGA Renewables Ltd.
	A & M Insulations Ltd. (Swindon)
	Domestic & General Insulation Ltd.
South West	East Coast Gas Services Ltd.

Government office region	Installer
	Excelsior Homecare Ltd.
	Fenhams Contracts
	Harland Rise Ltd.
	Ivor R. Cook Ltd.
	Kershaw Contracting Services Ltd.
	Iguana Service Ltd.
	R.G. Francis
	Mark Insulations Ltd.
	EAGA Homes Services
	Southern Electric Contracting Ltd. (SEC)
	Warm-Space Insulation Ltd.
	EAGA Renewables Ltd.
	ABCO Thermal Insulation
	BGC Gas Services Ltd.
West Midlands	Blue Flag Ltd.
	Central Installations Ltd.
	Dane Housing (Congleton) Ltd.
	Direct Line Maintenance Services Ltd.
	Dome[illegible] General Insulation Ltd.
	R.G. Francis
	East Coast Gas Services Ltd.
	Envirowarm Ltd.
	Excelsior Homecare Ltd.
	F. J. Jones Heating Engineers Ltd.
	Fenhams Contracts
	General Gas Services Ltd.
	Harland Rise Ltd.
	Heatex Quality Insulation Ltd.
	Iguana Services Ltd.
	Insulation Techniques and Services Ltd.
	Interglow (Contracts) Ltd.
	Ivor R. Cook Ltd.
	J M C Plumbing & Heating Ltd.
	Kelco Heating Ltd.
	Kershaw Contracting Services Ltd.
	KHI Ltd.
	Mark Insulations Ltd.
	EAGA Homes Services
	Miller Pattison Ltd. (Bedworth)
	P.H. Jones Ltd.
	Smethwick Energy Action Ltd.
	Sol Energy Ltd.
	Warm-Space Insulation Ltd.
	A & M Insulation (formerly JSL)
	EAGA Renewables Ltd.
	Better Plumbing Services Ltd.
Yorkshire and the Humber	East Coast Gas Services Ltd.
	Heating Efficiency Systems Ltd.
	Kershaw Contracting Services Ltd.
	KHI Ltd.
	Iguana Services Ltd.
	Perry Electrical Ltd.
	R.G. Francis
	A & M Insulation (formerly JSL)
	EAGA Home Services
	EAGA Renewables Ltd.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been spent on the Heating Rebate Scheme in each year since its inception. [257604]

Joan Ruddock: The amounts spent on the Heating Rebate Scheme since it was introduced in 2006, based on financial years are as follows:

	£
2006-07	1,097,047
2007-08	21,117,583
2008-09	[1]21,366,302

[1] April 2008 to January 2009

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the budget of the Heating Rebate Scheme is for *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* each of the next five financial years. [257605]

Joan Ruddock: The Warm Front £300 heating rebate has not been allocated a set budget and vouchers are currently provided in all instances where a valid application is made.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households in *(a)* West Lancashire constituency and *(b)* England have received Warm Front grants in each year since the establishment of the scheme. [261975]

Joan Ruddock: The table shows the number of households in West Lancashire and England that received Warm Front grants to improve their energy efficiency in each year since 2000.

	Assisted households	
Scheme year	*West Lancashire*	*England*
2000-01	365	97,616
2001-02	1,018	307,678
2002-03	467	219,328
2003-04	534	188,974
2004-05	1,052	208,084
2005-06	905	173,184
2006-07	763	253,079
2007-08	858	268,900
2008-09	599	181,080
Total	6,561	1,897,923

Warm Front Scheme: Contracts

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change until what date the Government's contract with eaga to manage the Warm Front scheme runs. [255946]

Joan Ruddock: The current contract to manage the Warm Front Scheme runs until June 2010, with the option of a two year extension.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Churches: Repairs and Maintenance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what funding the Church Commissioners have allocated for repairs to historic churches in each of the last three years. [265831]

Sir Stuart Bell: The Church Commissioners' main expenditure priorities are clergy pensions, parish mission and ministry support and support for bishops' and cathedrals' ministries.

Their support for church building repair or preservation is limited to their chancel repair liabilities, assistance to cathedrals with chancel repair liabilities, and their part-funding of the work of the Churches Conservation Trust. The combined expenditure in these categories in the last three years for which figures are available was:

	£ million
2005	1.7
2006	1.8
2007	1.7

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Arms Trade: Exports

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many applications for licences for arms exports to each country in *(a)* Asia and *(b)* Africa have been refused under the European Code of Conduct on Arms Export since 1998; and if he will make a statement. [264395]

Ian Pearson: The Government publish detailed information on export: licences issued, refused and revoked, by destination, including a summary of the items covered by these licences, and where appropriate the criterion against which the licence has been refused, in its Annual and Quarterly Reports on Strategic Export Controls.

The Government's Annual Reports, published since 1997, and Quarterly Reports, published since 2004, are available from the House of Commons Library and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-the-fco/publications/publications/annual-reports/export-controls1

The latest date for which information is available is 30 September 2008.

Huntingdon Life Sciences: Bank Services

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the cost of providing *(a)* banking and *(b)* insurance facilities to Huntingdon Life Sciences in each year since 2001. [256995]

Ian Pearson: There has been no cost to the Department for the provision of any such facilities to Huntingdon Life Sciences since 2001.

Manufacturing Industries: Motor Vehicles

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will co-operate with other European governments to loan money to *(a)* GM Motors, *(b)* Opel and *(c)* Vauxhall car manufacturers to support these companies during the economic downturn. [263967]

Ian Pearson: I had a constructive meeting in Brussels with GM Europe and ministerial counterparts from EU member states on 13 March. We are waiting to see GM Europe's future plan and, when this is made available, we will be able to discuss how we can best continue to help the company.

Motor Vehicles: Government Assistance

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much of the £2.3 billion set aside to support the UK car industry has been spent. [262049]

Ian Pearson: I refer my right hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for North Southwark and Bermondsey (Simon Hughes) on 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1130W.

Motor Vehicles: Industry

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the cost to the public purse was of the motor industry summit held on 28 January 2009. [259748]

Ian Pearson: The meeting took place in the BERR Conference Centre and light refreshments were provided. The hard charged (internal cost) room rate was £110 and the catering cost £28.75. This does not include the costs for the time of those who attended the summit.

Union Modernisation Fund

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1700W, on the union modernisation fund, if he will ask his Department's Accounting Officer to assess the appropriateness of the practice of the Supervisory Board of not keeping formal records of its decisions. [263224]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 12 March 2009]:* The functions and remit of the board, which was established following a public consultation, includes:

"The board will be advised and supported by BERR officials. Subject to this the board is responsible for determining its own procedures, including protocol in cases of possible conflicts of interest."

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1700W, on the union modernisation fund, how decisions of the Supervisory Board are *(a)* recorded and *(b)* communicated to Ministers. [263225]

Mr. McFadden: Action records are kept of the decisions taken and these are communicated to Ministers by the secretariat.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1700W, on the union modernisation fund, if he will make it his Department's policy to require the Supervisory Board to produce formal minutes in line with the guidance documents of *(a)* the Records Management Code and *(b)* Managing Private Office Records. [263226]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 12 March 2009]:* The UMF Supervisory Board's remit was set following a consultation. Part of its remit is:

"The board will be advised and supported by BERR officials. Subject to this the board is responsible for determining its own procedures, including protocol in cases of possible conflicts of interest".

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform who the *(a)* members and *(b)* chairmen of the Union Modernisation Fund Supervisory Board are. [263227]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 12 March 2009]:* The members of the Supervisory Board are:

Sir Bill Connor (Chair)
Bruce Warman
Professor Willy Brown, CBE
Jeannie Drake, CBE
Danny Carrigan
Adrian Askew

In addition two new board members have joined this month they are:

Professor David Gordon
David Lebrecht

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Allotments

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to ensure parish and town councils which wish to provide allotments for residents are able to do so. [265435]

Margaret Beckett: Parish and town councils which wish to provide allotments for residents are already able to do so. Section 23 of the Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 places a duty on local authorities (except for inner London boroughs) to provide sufficient allotments where they consider that there is a demand for them in their area.

My noble Friend Baroness Andrews recently hosted a meeting with allotment policy stakeholders to consider current trends, issues and priorities for action and with their help we are drawing up options about how we can provide further support to local authorities, including parish and town councils

One of the key actions that came out of that meeting is to update the good practice guidance, "growing in the community", with a clear map of allotment law/guidance to ensure that all councils are aware of their obligations and good practice in the provision of allotments.

Calor Gas: Canvey Island

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received on Calor Gas submitting a new application for development on Canvey Island; and if she will make a statement. [264929]

Margaret Beckett: The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government understands that no new application has been submitted to Castlepoint borough council by Calor Gas for development on Canvey Island. My right hon. Friend has not received any representations.

Home Improvement Agencies

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effect of reductions in private sector housing renewal grants upon home improvement agencies; what representations she has received on this issue; and if she will make a statement. [265349]

Margaret Beckett: £10.2 billion has been allocated by my Department for 2008-11 for regional housing capital programmes including those which address the condition of private sector housing stock. Of this almost £2 billion is for improvements and regeneration to the existing stock (both local authority owned and private sector). We have issued guidance to regional assemblies which asks them to continue to prioritise those most in need with the expectation that packages of assistance including grants, loans, and equity release schemes are made available to individual homeowners.

Local authorities return information annually through their Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix on the total number and value of grants and loans they provide for private sector renewal. This information is published for each authority and in aggregate form on the Department's website. The Department does not collect information on income streams of home improvement agencies.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to assist home improvement agencies facing budget difficulties; and what assessment she has made of the future role which may be played by such agencies. [265350]

Margaret Beckett: Home improvement agencies (HIAs) are not funded directly by Communities and Local Government. However, there are a number of funding streams which are paid to local authorities which can be used to fund and deliver HIA services. CLG announced a three year allocation for Supporting People in December 2007 of £4.9 billion over period 2008-09 to 2010-11. This provides stability for service planning and delivery over this period. New handypersons funding of £33 million is available over 2009-10 to 2010-11 to build capacity in the sector.

The Disabled Facilities Grant provides a source of fee income for HIAs. The budget is £468 million over the three years 2008-09 to 2010-11.

In addition CLG sponsors the national body for HIAs (Foundations) to support the work of the agencies and service commissioners.

In autumn 2007 CLG commissioned Foundations to carry out research and produce a report on the options for the future delivery of HIA services. A summary report was published in September 2008.

Housing: Low Incomes

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what representations she has received on *(a)* the Homes and Communities Agency's £93 million affordable housing programme for London and *(b)* the London and Quadrant Up2You portfolio; [263031]

(2) whether she received an invitation to attend the launch of the £135 million funding package for affordable housing in London on 3 March 2009. [263041]

Mr. Iain Wright: My officials first received information relating to the Mayor's announcement from the Homes and Communities Agency during the week commencing Monday 23 February 2009. My office received a telephone call of invitation to attend after ordinary working hours on Friday 27 February. No detailed information on the event could be obtained then or subsequently. I later received a letter from the Mayor of London regarding these proposals i.e. on Wednesday 4 March.

Infrastructure Planning Commission

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the cost of the Infrastructure Planning Commission in its first full year of operation. [265063]

Margaret Beckett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Falmouth and Camborne (Julia Goldsworthy) on 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1108W.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the *(a)* salaries, *(b)* pension package and *(c)* other benefits in kind will be of the Infrastructure Planning Commission's (i) Chairman, (ii) Chief Executive, (iii) board members and (iv) commissioners; [265065]

(2) which recruitment consultants have been employed to fill Infrastructure Planning Commission positions; and at what cost; [265062]

(3) what notice periods are specified in the contracts for the Infrastructure Planning Commission *(a)* Chairman, *(b)* Chief Executive, *(c)* board members and *(d)* commissioners; [265061]

(4) how much has been spent on recruitment for members of the Infrastructure Planning Commission; and how much has been allocated in total for such expenditure. [265060]

Margaret Beckett: For the remuneration package of the Chair, Deputy Chairs and Commissioners I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Hartlepool (Mr. Wright), the Under-Secretary of State, to the hon. Member for Falmouth and Camborne (Julia Goldsworthy) on 17 March 2009, *Official Report*, column 1108W. None of the posts are pensionable. There are no other benefits in kind.

The post of Chief Executive has been advertised recently as a full time post offering a salary in the range £120,000 to £160,000 per annum. The appointment will be pensionable. The structure of the IPC Board will be determined by the Chair when his appointment commences on 1 May.

A notice period of three months has been specified in the contract agreed with the Chair. The notice to be given by the CEO, Commissioners and board members will be determined when the individuals are identified following the recruitment exercises.

Veredus were appointed as the recruitment consultants following a competitive tendering process to recruit the Chair, Chief Executive as well as two Deputy Chairs and three Commissioners. The contact cost is £130,630 which is the total amount allocated for recruitment of Commission members. To date £22,466.25 has been paid. It is expected that a further recruitment exercise for Commissioners will be run during 2009. No funds have been allocated at present.

TREASURY

Departmental Billing

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of its suppliers his Department has paid within 10 days of receipt of invoice in the last four months. [264931]

Angela Eagle: For information on performance between November 2008 and January 2009, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 11 February 2009, *Official Report*, column 2099W, to the hon. Member for Dundee, East (Stewart Hosie). For February 2009, the Department paid 96.82 per cent. of invoices not in dispute within 10 days.

Efficiency in Public Services Review

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost was of the Gershon Review; and how many civil servants provided support to the review. [265430]

Yvette Cooper: In Annex D of "Releasing resources to the front line, Independent Review of Public Sector Efficiency", Sir Peter Gershon thanked the 35 members of the Efficiency Review Team, and set out the organisations from which they were loaned or seconded. Given the cross-cutting nature of the review and the number of organisations involved, HM Treasury does not centrally hold figures showing the total cost. Annex D of the report is available online at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/spending_sr04_efficiency.htm

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he will reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire, dated 29 January 2009, transferred from the Department for Communities and Local Government on 9 February 2009, on business diversification grants. [264879]

Angela Eagle: The correspondence was transferred from the Department for Communities and Local Government to the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, not HM Treasury.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Chelmsford of 6 January 2009 (Treasury reference: 04014/2009) concerning a constituent, Mr Laurence Kyan of Chelmsford. [265428]

Ian Pearson: Due to the large volume of correspondence received on these issues there has been a delay in sending some responses. The Financial Services Secretary hopes to be in a position to reply to the hon. Member shortly.

Network Rail and BBC: Public Appointments

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Government were consulted on the external comparators most appropriate to determine the *(a)* salary and *(b)* benefits of the (i) chief executive of Network Rail and (ii) director-general of the BBC; and if he will make a statement. [264331]

Yvette Cooper: These are matters for my right hon. Friends the Secretaries of State for Transport and for Culture, Media and Sport. The Treasury has no role in determining the salary or benefits of either the chief executive of Network Rail or the director-general of the BBC.

Personal Savings

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on the promotion of long-term personal savings in the UK. [265179]

Ian Pearson: The Government recognise the importance of savings and assets in providing people with independence throughout their lives, security if things go wrong and comfort in retirement.

The Government have improved incentives to save by introducing Individual Savings Accounts and Child Trust Funds. Meanwhile, the Saving Gateway will be introduced nationally in 2010 to promote saving among working age people on lower incomes. The Government have also legislated for reforms to the private pensions system that will encourage and enable more people to save for their retirement. The reforms include a duty on employers to automatically enrol all eligible workers into a qualifying workplace pension and, for the first time, employers will also be required to contribute to workers pensions. In addition, personal accounts will be introduced to give those currently without access to a good quality workplace pension scheme—in particular, low to moderate earners—the opportunity to save.

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will hold discussions with UK financial institutions on the competitiveness of their savings products and the incentives they offer to savers. [265180]

Ian Pearson: Competitiveness in banking and other markets is governed by competition law and overseen by the Office for Fair Trading and the Competition Commission. Savers can ensure they get the best possible income from their savings by shopping around. The Financial Services Authority publishes comparative tables of savings accounts and the interest rates as part of its Money Made Clear initiative.

Revenue and Customs: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many members of staff the HM Revenue and Customs office in Chorley may accommodate at its full capacity. [264885]

Mr. Timms: The HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) office in Chorley is Lingmell House. It has a net internal area of 1,068m^2. For planning purposes, HMRC would assume a maximum occupancy of 107 based on 10m^2 per head. The actual number would depend on the type of activity being carried out and the design of the building.

Revenue and Customs: Operating Costs

Miss Begg: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost of operating HM Revenue and Customs' Debt Management and Banking Unit has been in each year since the introduction of tax credits; and how much was spent on the management and recovery of tax credit overpayments in each year. [264207]

Mr. Timms: HMRC's Debt Management and Banking Directorate (DMB) was formed in April 2005 following the creation of HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC). The total operating costs for DMB since formation are as follows:

	Net operating costs (£ million)[1]
2005-06	262.5
2006-07	235.7
2007-08	231.1

[1] Totals comprise paybill, net administration and legal costs for each year. The figures do not include any departmental overheads such as accommodation, IT or other centralised corporate services. The figures quoted include activities undertaken by the directorate not directly associated with debt pursuit and recovery—principally those concerned with general payment processing and banking operations.

Responsibility for the management and recovery of tax credit overpayments is shared between a number of directorates, with DMB taking the lead where direct recovery of an established debt is appropriate.

Disaggregating the costs for the management or recovery of tax credit overpayments from other tax credit and debt management expenditure could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Royal Mint

Adam Price: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has appointed external advisers to advise on the possible sale of the Royal Mint. [265503]

Angela Eagle: The Shareholder Executive has appointed external advisers to support the review of the strategic options for the Royal Mint that is being conducted as part of the Operational Efficiency Programme.

Smuggling: Tobacco

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many illegal cigarettes were seized by HM Revenue and Customs in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Northern Ireland in 2008; and what the number seized per head of population was in each case. [264775]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 19 March 2009]:* High level data on tobacco seizures are published in the HMRC annual reports—available on the HMRC website:

www.hmrc.gov.uk

The latest report contains details for 2007-08. However, the information is not collated and recorded in a way that would enable the level of detail requested to be identified.

Taxation: Pensions

Adam Price: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what rate of tax is being applied by HM Revenue and Customs to the remaining lump sums currently being returned by the Government to members of the Bus Employees Superannuation Trust who are aged over 75 years. [263304]

Ian Pearson: Taxpayer confidentiality rules mean that I cannot comment on particular cases. However, I understand the rules that apply to lump sums paid to members of the Bus Employees Superannuation Trust are the same as those that apply to other individuals. Guidance on those rules can be found in HMRC's Register Pension Scheme manual, a copy of which can be found on HMRC's website at:

www.hmrc.gov.uk/manuals/rpsmmanual/RPSM09205000.htm

Taxation: Self-assessment

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many people with a BT postcode missed the 31 January deadline for filing their tax returns in each of the last three years; and how much HM Revenue and Customs received in penalties from such persons in each such year; [265181]

(2) what steps he is taking to reduce the numbers of people who do not meet the annual deadline for filing their tax returns. [265182]

Angela Eagle: 28,323 people with a BT postcode missed the 31 January 2009 deadline for filing 2007-08 self assessment tax returns. I would refer to the answer given on 20 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 209W, which provided figures for 2006-07. The detail for 2005-06 is not known.

HMRC does not hold information on how much was received in penalties from such persons in each year.

The filing deadline is prominently displayed on the tax returns and notices to file, and HMRC issue reminders in advance of the deadline. In addition, HMRC ran a comprehensive publicity campaign to inform both customers and agents of the change in filing dates for the 2007-08 tax return—to 31 October for paper returns and 31 January for returns filed online. This included TV, radio and press advertising, posters and billboards, and online advertising. There was also extensive media coverage.

VAT: Clothing

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Government's policy is on inclusion of school uniforms in Annex III of Directive 2006/112/EC in the current reduced VAT rate negotiations at EU level. [265184]

Mr. Timms: The UK's zero VAT rate for young children's clothing, including school uniforms is based on Article 110 of Directive 2006/112/EC. There is currently no scope within Annex III of Directive 2006/112/EC for a reduced VAT rate for school uniforms or children's clothing. Any change to European VAT agreements to allow the introduction of a new reduced rate of VAT to the current list, would require the unanimous agreement of all 27 member states.

Ministerial Correction

Tuesday 10 March 2009

HEALTH

Prescriptions

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department provides to healthcare professionals on preventing, prescribing and dispensing errors in relation to immunosuppressant therapies. [249788]

[Official Report, 21 January 2009, Vol. 486, c. 1471W.]

Letter of correction from Ann Keen:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Eddisbury (Mr. O'Brien) on 21 January 2009. I am sorry that the answer said that the MHRA had sent a "Dear Doctor/Healthcare Practitioner letter" when the MHRA had agreed the text of a letter for Astellas Pharma to send.

The correct answer should have been:

Ann Keen: The National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) reviews medication errors on an ongoing basis, and prioritises the production of guidance and recommendations based on the level of harm reported to its Reporting and Learning System (RLS), other national and international reporting systems and published literature.

The Agency has also produced a series of design guides in the 'Design for Patient Safety' series, which aim to improve the labelling, and packaging of pharmaceutical products. A copy has been placed in the Library. These have been issued to pharmaceutical companies to assist them produce products that minimise the risk of mis-selection and other patient safety incidents. These materials are also used by national health service (NHS) medicines procurement groups to purchase products which are safer in use. A design guide on 'The Dispensing Environment' which identifies ways that good design of the dispensing environment can help improve the accuracy of the dispensing process has also been produced by the NPSA.

The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has, as part of an EU-wide action on two specific immunosuppressant therapies, agreed the text of a "Dear Doctor/Healthcare Practitioner letter" for Astellas Pharma to send to the relevant NHS staff, and made proposals for changes to the packaging for Advagraf to emphasise that it differs from Prograf. In addition, MHRA included the issue in their December edition of the Drug Safety Update, with a further article in the January 2009 edition. These should help to make prescribers, pharmacists, and patients aware of the brand being prescribed, whatever the manufacturer, and the associated dose regimen. MHRA has also highlighted the issue to other information providers, including the British National Formulary and the National Prescribing Centre.

Ministerial Corrections

Wednesday 11 March 2009

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Foster Care

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children who left care in 2008 in each local authority area had had more than (*a*) three, (*b*) five, (*c*) 10, (*d*) 20, (*e*) 30, (*f*) 40 and (*g*) 50 foster placements whilst they were in care. [255711]

[Official Report, 12 February 2009, Vol. 487, c. 2244-2252W.]

Letter of correction from Beverley Hughes:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for East Worthing and Shoreham (Tim Loughton) on 12 February 2009. Unfortunately the error occurred as a result of duplicate placement index numbers being counted instead of being removed during the analysis. This error has affected all of the figures provided.

The correct answer should have been:

Beverley Hughes: Information on the number of children who left care in 2008 in each local authority who had more than (*a*) three, (*b*) five, (*c*) 10, (*d*) 20, (*e*) 30, (*f*) 40 and (*g*) 50 foster placements while they were in care in England can be found in the following table.

Children who ceased to be looked after by the number of foster placements while they were in care, by local authority[1, 2, 3, 4, 5], year ending 31 March 2008—Coverage: England

Number

	Number of foster placements during time in care						
	More than 3	*More than 5*	*More than 10*	*More than 20*	*More than 30*	*More than 40*	*More than 50*
England	3,400	1,900	340	50	10	—	—
North East	210	90	20	—	—	0	0
Darlington	5	—	0	0	0	0	0
Durham	35	15	—	—	0	0	0
Gateshead	10	—	—	0	0	0	0
Hartlepool	10	5	—	0	0	0	0
Middlesbrough	20	10	—	0	0	0	0
Newcastle upon Tyne	35	20	—	0	0	0	0
North Tyneside	20	5	—	0	0	0	0
Northumberland	15	—	—	0	0	0	0
Redcar and Cleveland	15	10	—	—	—	0	0
South Tyneside	15	—	0	0	0	0	0
Stockton-on-Tees	10	5	0	0	0	0	0
Sunderland	5	—	—	0	0	0	0
North West	480	210	50	10	—	—	0
Blackburn with Darwen	15	5	—	0	0	0	0
Blackpool	10	—	0	0	0	0	0
Bolton	20	5	—	0	0	0	0
Bury	15	5	0	0	0	0	0
Cheshire	50	25	5	—	—	—	0
Cumbria	35	15	5	—	0	0	0
Halton	10	5	—	0	0	0	0
Knowsley	20	15	—	—	—	0	0
Lancashire	65	30	10	—	—	0	0
Liverpool	40	15	—	—	—	0	0
Manchester	60	25	—	0	0	0	0
Oldham	10	5	0	0	0	0	0
Rochdale	10	—	0	0	0	0	0
Salford	10	5	—	0	0	0	0
Sefton	5	—	—	0	0	0	0
St. Helens	10	—	—	0	0	0	0
Stockport	10	—	0	0	0	0	0
Tameside	15	5	0	0	0	0	0
Trafford	10	—	0	0	0	0	0
Warrington	—	—	0	0	0	0	0

Children who ceased to be looked after by the number of foster placements while they were in care, by local authority[1, 2, 3, 4, 5] year ending 31 March 2008—Coverage: England

Number

	Number of foster placements during time in care						
	More than 3	*More than 5*	*More than 10*	*More than 20*	*More than 30*	*More than 40*	*More than 50*
Wigan	15	10	—	0	0	0	0
Wirral	30	15	—	0	0	0	0
Yorkshire and the Humber	310	140	30	—	0	0	0
Barnsley	5	—	—	0	0	0	0
Bradford	35	15	—	0	0	0	0
Calderdale	20	10	—	0	0	0	0
Doncaster	25	10	5	0	0	0	0
East Riding of Yorkshire	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kingston upon Hull, City of	35	15	—	0	0	0	0
Kirklees	10	—	0	0	0	0	0
Leeds	60	30	—	—	0	0	0
North East Lincolnshire	5	—	0	0	0	0	0
North Lincolnshire	5	—	0	0	0	0	0
North Yorkshire	20	10	—	—	0	0	0
Rotherham	20	10	0	0	0	0	0
Sheffield	20	10	—	0	0	0	0
Wakefield	20	5	—	0	0	0	0
York	15	10	—	0	0	0	0
East Midlands	250	110	40	—	0	0	0
Derby	15	10	—	0	0	0	0
Derbyshire	35	20	10	—	0	0	0
Leicester	35	15	—	0	0	0	0
Leicestershire	15	5	0	0	0	0	0
Lincolnshire	40	15	—	—	0	0	0
Northamptonshire	40	20	10	—	0	0	0
Nottingham	35	15	—	0	0	0	0
Nottinghamshire	25	10	—	0	0	0	0
Rutland	—	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Midlands	370	160	50	10	—	—	—
Birmingham	95	45	10	—	0	0	0
Coventry	30	10	—	0	0	0	0
Dudley	10	—	—	0	0	0	0
Herefordshire	10	—	0	0	0	0	0
Sandwell	25	10	10	—	0	0	0
Shropshire	5	—	—	0	0	0	0
Solihull	15	—	0	0	0	0	0
Staffordshire	40	10	—	0	0	0	0
Stoke-on-Trent	20	10	—	0	0	0	0
Telford and Wrekin	5	5	—	—	0	0	0
Walsall	15	—	0	0	0	0	0
Warwickshire	45	25	15	5	—	—	0
Wolverhampton	25	10	—	—	—	—	—
Worcestershire	20	10	—	0	0	0	0
East of England	360	180	40	—	—	0	0
Bedfordshire	10	—	0	0	0	0	0
Cambridgeshire	15	5	—	0	0	0	0
Essex	120	60	20	—	—	0	0
Hertfordshire	40	15	—	0	0	0	0
Luton	25	10	—	0	0	0	0
Norfolk	55	25	—	0	0	0	0
Peterborough	25	10	—	0	0	0	0

Children who ceased to be looked after by the number of foster placements while they were in care, by local authority[1, 2, 3, 4, 5], year ending 31 March 2008—Coverage: England

Number

	Number of foster placements during time in care						
	More than 3	*More than 5*	*More than 10*	*More than 20*	*More than 30*	*More than 40*	*More than 50*
Southend-on-Sea	20	15	—	0	0	0	0
Suffolk	35	20	10	0	0	0	0
Thurrock	20	15	—	0	0	0	0
London	510	170	30	—	0	0	0
Inner London	230	80	10	—	0	0	0
Camden	15	—	0	0	0	0	0
City of London	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hackney	20	10	0	0	0	0	0
Hammersmith and Fulham	15	—	—	0	0	0	0
Haringey	20	10	—	0	0	0	0
Islington	15	—	—	0	0	0	0
Kensington and Chelsea	—	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lambeth	25	10	0	0	0	0	0
Lewisham	10	—	0	0	0	0	0
Newham	30	10	—	0	0	0	0
Southwark	35	15	—	0	0	0	0
Tower Hamlets	10	—	0	0	0	0	0
Wandsworth	15	5	—	—	0	0	0
Westminster	10	—	0	0	0	0	0
Outer London	280	100	20	—	0	0	0
Barking and Dagenham	25	10	—	—	0	0	0
Barnet	15	—	—	0	0	0	0
Bexley	10	5	—	0	0	0	0
Brent	30	10	0	0	0	0	0
Bromley	10	—	0	0	0	0	0
Croydon	25	—	0	0	0	0	0
Ealing	20	5	—	0	0	0	0
Enfield	15	5	0	0	0	0	0
Greenwich	25	—	0	0	0	0	0
Harrow	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Havering	10	—	0	0	0	0	0
Hillingdon	20	10	—	0	0	0	0
Hounslow	10	—	0	0	0	0	0
Kingston upon Thames	10	—	0	0	0	0	0
Merton	5	—	—	—	0	0	0
Redbridge	10	—	—	0	0	0	0
Richmond upon Thames	—	—	0	0	0	0	0
Sutton	15	5	5	0	0	0	0
Waltham Forest	10	5	—	0	0	0	0
South East	490	210	40	—	—	—	0
Bracknell Forest	5	—	0	0	0	0	0
Brighton and Hove	35	20	10	—	—	—	0
Buckinghamshire	5	—	0	0	0	0	0
East Sussex	25	10	—	0	0	0	0
Hampshire	95	35	5	0	0	0	0
Isle of Wight	20	10	—	0	0	0	0
Kent	80	30	—	0	0	0	0
Medway Towns	15	5	0	0	0	0	0
Milton Keynes	25	20	—	0	0	0	0
Oxfordshire	20	10	0	0	0	0	0
Portsmouth	10	—	—	0	0	0	0

Children who ceased to be looked after by the number of foster placements while they were in care, by local authority[1, 2, 3, 4, 5], year ending 31 March 2008—Coverage: England

Number

	Number of foster placements during time in care						
	More than 3	*More than 5*	*More than 10*	*More than 20*	*More than 30*	*More than 40*	*More than 50*
Reading	10	5	—	—	—	0	0
Slough	10	—	—	0	0	0	0
Southampton	25	10	—	0	0	0	0
Surrey	45	20	—	0	0	0	0
West Berkshire	—	—	0	0	0	0	0
West Sussex	50	20	—	0	0	0	0
Windsor and Maidenhead	—	—	0	0	0	0	0
Wokingham	5	—	0	0	0	0	0
South West	420	200	40	—	—	0	0
Bath and North East Somerset	5	—	0	0	0	0	0
Bournemouth	15	5	—	0	0	0	0
Bristol, City of	50	25	5	0	0	0	0
Cornwall	40	20	—	0	0	0	0
Devon	45	20	—	0	0	0	0
Dorset	15	5	—	0	0	0	0
Gloucestershire	40	20	—	0	0	0	0
Isles of Scilly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Somerset	25	10	—	—	0	0	0
Plymouth	35	20	—	—	—	0	0
Poole	15	10	—	0	0	0	0
Somerset	45	25	—	—	0	0	0
South Gloucestershire	15	5	—	0	0	0	0
Swindon	40	25	5	0	0	0	0
Torbay	15	—	0	0	0	0	0
Wiltshire	15	10	—	0	0	0	0

[1] Source: SSDA903 return on children looked after.
[2] Figures shown are cumulative.
[3] The number of foster placements excludes any episodes of care where children were looked after under an agreed series of short term placements.
[4] Children who, at the time they ceased to be looked after, were not in a foster care placement but who had previously been placed in foster care, have been included.
[5] To ensure that no individual can be identified from statistical tables, we use conventions for the rounding and suppression of very small numbers. National figures have been rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 or to the nearest 10 otherwise. Numbers at local authority level have been rounded to the nearest five and numbers at region level have been rounded to the nearest 10. Numbers of five or less have been suppressed and replaced with a hyphen (—) except where the number is zero.

TRANSPORT

M1: Bedfordshire

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the scheme to widen the M1 between junctions 10 and 13; and if he will make a statement. [258306]

[Official Report, 2 March 2009, Vol. 488, c. 1271W.]

Letter of correction from Paul Clark:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for St. Albans (Anne Main) on 2 March 2009. The correct answer should have been:

Paul Clark: In January 2009 the Department for Transport published 'Britain's Transport Infrastructure, Motorways and Major Trunk Roads' which summarises the results of assessments of hard shoulder running (HSR) as an alternative to widening on a number of sections of the motorway network including the M1 between junctions 10 and 13. This document is available in the Libraries of the House.

This work has concluded that hard shoulder running can deliver improvements more quickly than motorway widening, provides a better value for money solution and gives benefits in terms of safety and reliability. Additional capacity can be delivered at a lower cost than a more conventional road widening scheme with fewer environmental impacts. We have successfully and safely opened up the motorway hard shoulder on the M42 at busy times, giving us confidence that we can do the same elsewhere on the network.

In the light of these findings, the January document confirmed that we plan to commence works on the implementation of hard shoulder running on the M1 between junctions 10 and 13 in the next financial year. The Highways Agency will be providing more detailed information on the scheme in spring 2009.

Ministerial Corrections

Thursday 12 March 2009

TRANSPORT

Departmental Telephone Services

Mr. Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what use *(a)* his Department and *(b)* service providers under contract to his Department make of (i) 0844 and 0845 telephone numbers and (ii) revenue-sharing telephone numbers for calls from members of the publhic; for which services such numbers are used; what prefixes are used for revenue-sharing numbers; how much revenue has accrued from revenue-sharing numbers in each of the last five years; what consideration his Department has given to introducing 03-prefixed telephone numbers for calls to all such services; and if he will make a statement. [247349]

[Official Report, 26 January 2009, Vol. 487, c. 4-5W.]

Letter of correction from Mr. Hoon:

An error has been identified in the final paragraph of a written answer given to the hon. Member for Beverley and Holderness (Mr. Stuart) on 26 January 2009 regarding the use of 0300 numbers. The final paragraph should have read:

"Consideration is currently being given to switching to 0300 numbers for the Freight Best Practice helpline and for the Highways Agency Information Line. DVLA has also been considering moving to 0300 numbers and some preparatory work has already been undertaken."

Rescue Services: Hope Cove

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what arrangements the Maritime and Coastguard Agency has made to provide rescue services in the operating area previously covered by the Hope Cove lifeboat; what plans he has to make payments to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution for the provision of such services; and if he will make a statement; [259340]

(2) what provisions will be made before 10am and after 6pm during spring and summer months to provide rescue services in the operating area previously covered by the Hope Cove lifeboat; and whether he plans to upgrade the services provided by the Bantham rubber duck boat. [259341]

[Official Report, 2 March 2009, Vol. 488, c. 1272W.]

Letter of correction from Jim Fitzpatrick:

An error has been identified in the final line of a written answer given to the hon. Member for Totnes (Mr. Steen) on 2 March 2009. The correct answer should have been:

Jim Fitzpatrick: A consultation about the search and rescue provision for the southern part of the south-west peninsula is being prepared.

Until that process is complete the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's boat at Hope Cove will be able to operate under necessary safety restrictions from 1 April 2009 until 31 October 2009.

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) has recently indicated a willingness to provide a beach life-guarding service specifically at Hope Cove, in addition to maintaining the existing provision at the nearby Bantham beach.

Provision and funding of beach safety services is generally a matter for the local authority.

There are no plans to make payments to the RNLI.

Ministerial Correction

Thursday 19 March 2009

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Train to Gain Initiative

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department has spent under the Train to Gain initiative on advertising in each month of the last 12 months; and how much he estimates will be so spent in the next six months. [250118]

[Official Report, 9 February 2009, Vol. 487, c. 1663W.]

Letter of correction from Siôn Simon:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Havant (Mr. Willetts) on 9 February 2009. The figure cited for the total advertising expenditure, excluding VAT, was incorrect. The correct answer should have been:

Mr. Simon: National marketing and communications for Train to Gain is delivered by the national Learning and Skills Council (LSC) on behalf of the Department. Records indicate that during the period January to December 2008 total advertising expenditure excluding VAT was £7,716,021. There are no media costs for January 2009 and no projected media costs for February to March 2009. We are currently working with the LSC to develop a dedicated marketing and communications strategy for the financial year 2009-10.